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SCHOOLS FEAR REBUILD PLAN WILL BE AXED

Government's need to save cash threatens future refurbishment of 10 county schools

A BILLION pound project which would see every secondary school in the county rebuilt or refurbished could be scrapped under the new Government's plans.

Ten of the 36 planned schools have started construction work and have contracts to finish the buildings, but the future could look bleak for the majority of Kent and Medway's secondary schools.

The celebrated Building Schools for the Future (BSF) project was introduced by Labour in 2005-06, in a bid to improve every secondary centre in the country.

And with Kent's overall BSF programme – the largest building scheme in Europe – worth an estimated £1.8 billion, County Hall officials believed it could transform 21st century education.

By **MARIJKE COX**

Last September, Tory Kent County Council leader Paul Carter praised the new schools initiative, stating it would give the county's young people first-class facilities.

But after the Con-Lib coalition took over government, spending plans under BSF – £55bn nationally – look set for review, with fears funding could be massively reduced.

Education chiefs are worried some of the cash outlined for the BSF programme could be used on academies – which are state-funded, but established and managed by sponsors – as well as the Tories' proposed 'free schools'.

These free schools would be state-funded, but set up by private organisations or parent and teacher groups to compete with state schools in a bid to drive up standards.

Despite the initial praise from Cllr Carter for BSF, he told this newspaper he was in agreement with new education secretary Michael Gove, who called for a review of the scheme.

Cllr Carter said: "Whichever party came into government it's most unlikely we would have had the same amount of money due to spending cuts that need to be made. I'm expecting a cut of 25-35 per cent for BSF."

Two weeks before the general election Cllr Carter revealed his own fears to the BBC over the free schools policy and academies, claiming they could threaten the budgets of local schools.

But he later retracted his comments, claiming he was 100 per cent behind the then-shadow education secretary Michael Gove's plans.

He told KOS Media this week: "There is no disagreement between myself and Mr Gove.

"As long as there is fair competition and fair funding across the board, I think it's good to introduce some competition between schools."

CONTINUED ON PAGE TWO

Picture: ADRIAN KETTLE

Rare pair home in on county

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Supporters confident vote will overturn Hunting Act

By **MARIJKE COX**

PRO-HUNT supporters are celebrating after David Cameron confirmed a free vote on the controversial subject would still go ahead under his new Government.

It came amid fears by Kent's hunt members that the Con-Lib coalition would quash any hope of a repeal of the hunting ban, where many Lib Dem MPs were opposed.

But in the completed coalition agreement, unveiled on Thursday, it stated Government will bring forward a motion on a free vote on the Hunting Act 2004.

Anti-hunt protestors hope the law, which makes hunting foxes, deer, hares and mink with hounds illegal, will remain in place, but supporters believe the vote will overturn the ban.

Numerous polls on the subject show the public want the Hunting Act to stay in place.

Tim Bonner, spokesman for the Countryside Alliance, said the Act has failed dramatically and a vote for repeal is essential.

"There are Tory supporters and some Lib Dem supporters so we're confident we will win it," he said.

"It may not happen for a while, but I think the hunting world understands the priorities of Government and the other major issues it is faced with."

He added: "The vote may have happened a little sooner had the Tories secured an overall majority in the election."

The Hunting Act has been heavily criticised by hunts and protestors since it was first introduced, where many said it was unenforceable by police. Nationally, there has only been three prosecutions. To be found guilty, intent to pursue a mammal must be proved.

Emotive

Ross Williams, joint master of the East Kent Hunt, said there are too many problems with the ban.

"How is a hound supposed to know legally what the difference is between a rabbit and a hare? And how is a police officer supposed to enforce this?" he said.

"The Hunting Act is riddled with anomalies and yet 700 hours were spent debating it in Parliament.

"Only 70 hours were spent on whether to go to war with Iraq – it's political bigotry."

Mr Williams said supporters threw their weight behind election campaigns for Tory candidates in east Kent, to get MPs opposed to fox-hunting ousted.

"It worked 100 per cent in this corner of the country which shows people power," he said

"We are a minority and this Act is an oppression of that minority. We are calling for the mindful release from this burden of oppression. It's an emotive issue, but there needs to be freedom and democracy here."

But while supporters believe a repeal is on the cards, anti-hunt campaigners think otherwise.

Andrew Tyler, the director of Animal Aid, based in Tonbridge, said a survey by the League Against Cruel Sports showed there was not a majority for repeal.

"A fairly significant majority are against repeal so an end to the Hunting Ban is not a done deal and we intend to campaign hard and make contact with MPs of all parties to build support," he said.

"The majority of the public in poll after poll have indicated they do not want hunting – 75 per cent oppose it in rural areas and towns."

Hunts now use fox scent instead of a live animal in the sport, but hounds have still been known to kill foxes and other mammals.

Mr Tyler said: "The act could be strengthened and there should be a clause that could be enacted to stop reckless behaviour."

'Free schools' could benefit if BSF goes

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

But school heads not yet to sign contracts under the BSF programme fear if the scheme is scrapped they may not get their much-needed refurbishments.

Already £500m has been secured in Kent from Partnership for Schools, which is responsible for government's capital investment projects.

Andrew Somers is headteacher of Hartsdown Technology College in Margate, one of the schools in the second wave of BSF without a signed contract.

"It would be a massive disappointment if it doesn't go ahead," he said. "It would put us at a huge disadvantage against schools that have been refurbished. We can't deliver the new curriculum without these facilities.

"We're in one of the most deprived areas in Kent. Our school was built in the 1950s with flat roofs which leak – the sports hall roof cost £45,000 to repair. Without repairs we'd have to struggle on, but it's unfair on the pupils and staff."

A few miles away in Broadstairs is St George's CofE Foundation School, one of the first to be completed under the programme.

KENT SCHOOLS CURRENTLY RECEIVING BSF FUNDING

- Charles Dickens School, Broadstairs
- Community College Whitstable, Whitstable
- Dane Court Grammar School, Broadstairs
- Herne Bay High School, Herne Bay
- King Ethelbert School, Birchington
- Northfleet School for Girls, Gravesend
- Northfleet Technology College, Gravesend
- St George's CE Foundation School, Broadstairs (completed)
- St John's Catholic Comprehensive School, Gravesend
- Thamesview School, Gravesend

Headteacher Kim Stoner said the rebuild was "inspiring", with £1 million of ICT facilities and new open learning areas.

"This is the start of a new future for the school where everybody can realise their aspirations," she said.

Although Mrs Stoner would not comment on the possible axing of BSF funding, she admitted it would be disappointing for any schools to miss out.

Kent independent education advisor Peter Read echoed her words and said he would be furious if funding for BSF was cut with academies and free schools going ahead.

"I can understand the reduction in BSF, but to continue vast funding for academies while other schools in poor conditions are not being repaired is unforgivable. Funding for a new academy is more expensive at around £35m, whereas a BSF school is £20m."

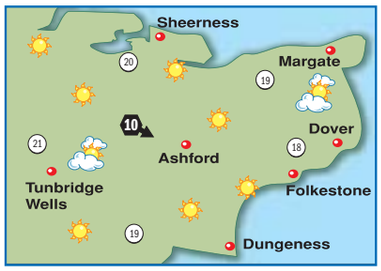
Mr Read also hit out at the free schools policy, stating the centres would only benefit middle-class areas.

"Who is going to set up a school in a deprived area? And yet these are the places in greatest need," he said.

A statement from Partnership for Schools stated the Department for Education had not yet made a decision on BSF funding, but admitted the Government would be undertaking a full comprehensive spending review.

"Ministers will shortly be considering their spending priorities, which will take into account all areas of spending, including schools capital."

Kent today



TODAY: Coastal mist and low cloud will burn away to leave all areas dry and fine with prolonged periods of sunshine. Light easterly winds. Very warm. Max temp 19-22C (66-72F). **TONIGHT:** A dry night with predominantly clear skies and little, if any, cloud. Min temp 8-11C (46-52F).

Around Britain

		°C	°F			°C	°F
Aberdeen	rain	18	64	London	sun	26	79
Belfast	fair	19	66	Liverpool	fair	20	68
Birmingham	fair	25	77	Manchester	fair	22	72
B'mouth	sun	23	73	Newcastle	fair	22	72
Bristol	sun	18	64	Norwich	fair	23	73
Cardiff	sun	23	73	Oxford	sun	25	77
Cork	fair	19	66	Southsea	sun	21	70
Edinburgh	fair	19	66	S'hampton	sun	23	73
Glasgow	fair	17	63	Southport	fair	18	64
Isle of Man	fair	17	63	Swansea	sun	21	70
Leeds	fair	22	72	Torquay	sun	20	68

Sun & moon

Sunrise	4.52am	Sunset	8.53pm	Lighting up times:
Moonrise	3.48pm	Moonset	2.19am	8.53pm to 4.51am

High Tides

	today				tomorrow			
		ht (m)		ht (m)		ht (m)		ht (m)
Dover	07.52	5.8	20.15	6.0	08.53	5.9	21.12	6.2
Margate	08.45	4.2	21.05	4.3	09.49	4.3	22.09	4.4
St Mary's	01.03	4.8	13.43	4.7	02.10	5.0	14.45	4.9

Week ahead

monday Dry. Sunny. max 25C min8C

thursday Light showers. max 19C min 6C

tuesday Variable cloud. max 21C min 6C

friday Sun and showers. max 19C min 7C

wednesday Bright. Dry. max 19C min 5C

saturday Fine. Mainly dry. max 20C min 6C

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Thousands of empty homes despite growing waiting list

SOME 84,000 properties are sitting empty across the South East as the number of people on housing waiting lists rises above 200,000.

In Kent alone, 18,500 houses are not in use, with many falling into disrepair as landlords struggle to pay for renovations following the downturn. And despite the many empty properties blighting the county's towns and villages, targets outlined in the South East Plan show almost 140,000 homes are to be built by 2026 to tackle the need for housing.

The latest count shows more than 30,000 people are on waiting lists in the county.

Steve Grimshaw, project manager for No Use Empty, a council-run initiative bringing empty properties back into use, said there should be a focus on renovating buildings.

"New homes do need to be built, but we need to tackle the empty homes problem and the growing number of people on council waiting lists," he said. "Anything we can do with our scheme is going to help with the lack of housing, but the problem is we have no say over what landlords do with their properties.

"These properties are also a drain on resources. They attract anti-social behaviour and bring an area down, which can then cause other homes to lose value."

The No Use Empty scheme, launched in east Kent in 2005, is a partnership between Kent County Council and district authorities and was aimed at owners of empty properties.

Interest-free loans for repairs are available on an application basis and free advice from local authorities on renovation, letting and grant funding is also offered to landlords.

Since the scheme began 1,200 properties have been brought back into use. Officials raised concerns last month about the lack of affordable homes being built in the South East. A National Housing Federation report revealed a Government target outlining the need for 32,700 new houses in 2008-09 in the South East was missed by 15 per cent. From 2002-09, 210,300 homes were outlined for the region, with 186,290 built.

Warren Finney, South East regional manager for the National Housing Federation, said bringing empty houses back into use was just as important.

"It would help tackle the chronic shortage of affordable homes in Kent," he said.

"The new Government needs to make a long-term commitment to housing if a full-scale crisis is to be averted."

Visit www.no-use-empty.org for more details.

Picture: GETTY

RESPECT: Referee Steve Bennett

Respect for all is goal of tournament

MORE than 200 teams from across the county will be competing in the Kent Football Tournament this weekend.

The two-day event at the County Showground at Detling, near Maidstone, has been organised by the Kent County Football Association to promote its Respect programme.

Premier League referee Steve Bennett, from Orpington, will attend in his capacity as the FA's Respect ambassador.

He said: "It's the duty of everybody involved in the game to respect each other. It's not all about winning, but showing respect for every player, every official and every spectator."

Youth and adult teams will be playing in the tournament, which is believed to be one of the largest of its kind ever held in the county.

Movies and shakers

By **STEVE KNIGHT**
steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

LEGENDARY film director Martin Scorsese was among those who paid tribute to a Kent-based restoration expert for 50 years' service to the industry.

Scorsese – the man behind such critically-acclaimed movies as Raging Bull and Goodfellas – added another award to his vast collection when the Film Foundation of which he is chairman scooped the prize for Best Archive Restoration at last month's Focal International Awards.

However, the 67-year-old New Yorker was forced to play second fiddle at the bash to Dartford resident David Atkinson, whose lifetime achievement award closed the show.

Mr Atkinson, who recently retired from his job as an archive specialist for the international Prime Focus group, said he was honoured to be chosen for the prize.

"It's certainly nice to be recognised by your peers," he said. "It was a bit unexpected, though. The lifetime achievement award tends to go to people more hands-on in the production side of film libraries and so on.

"I'm more involved in the technical side of storing old films and translating them for use with the modern media.

"It was quite nice to be among the elite at the ceremony . Martin Scorsese being there was a big surprise and he was ushered in right at the last minute to collect his award.

"He stayed while I accepted my prize, but had gone by the time I stepped off the stage.

"I must admit I didn't think I'd be able to follow somebody like him, but it was a great evening nonetheless."

Also present was Lord Bragg, who presented an award to the footage archive researchers of the South Bank Show, which he hosted until its demise last December.

Mr Atkinson first entered the film and television industry in 1960 when he landed a job as a trainee film technician and engineer for the Bexleyheath-based EvT Magnetics.

He went on to hold positions at leading restoration firms and served on committees including the British Standards Institute and the Society of Motion Picture and Television Engineers. Mr Atkinson's last day with Prime Focus was on April 30 – just two days before his 50th anniversary in the industry.

Prime Focus managing director Simon Briggs said: "David's knowledge and passion for film were evident from the first day I met back in 1997. His humility has meant he's always been determined to pass on his knowledge to the next generation. His contribution over the years has been immeasurable."

Picture: DAVID SHANKBONE

GOODFELLA: David Atkinson (right) receives award from Lord Puttnam. INSET: Martin Scorcese

Channel challenge for female rowers

FIVE women are poised to become the first all-female crew to row across the English Channel.

They will set off some time between this weekend and Wednesday, depending on weather and sea conditions, to raise money for the National Autistic Society.

The crew, from Dover, are Rachel Whittaker, Maria West-Burrows, Jane Shorter, Jo Hannam and cox Chris Price.

They hope to complete the crossing in five hours and to raise £2,000 for the Dover and Deal branch of the charity to help fund a new youth fun club.

To view, search 'Miliband' @ yourkenttv.co.uk

Labour leadership contender David Miliband meets the public on a visit to the county

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Film-maker captures the truth behind civil war

ON SET: Philip and Heidi during their filming

A UNIQUE insight into the civil war that ripped Sri Lanka apart is to be made into a free online documentary.

Canterbury-based film-maker Philip Panchenko, 26, visited the crisis-hit South Asian island last year where, despite a government-imposed media blackout, he was granted exclusive access to the people and politicians affected.

He said he hoped his documentary – The Truth That Wasn't There – would help educate others as to the reasons behind the war, which had rumbled on and off since 1983.

Mr Panchenko said: "I had all these preconceptions, but the situation turned out to be a lot more complex than just one side being good and the other bad. There's an ongoing debate about reconciliation in the country and there are lots of unanswered questions.

"Many, many people died in this war so I think it's important people know why and what was going on in the country."

The fighting between the Sri Lankan government and the rebel Tamil Tigers was finally brought to an end when the government declared victory on May 19 last year.

This followed the death of Tamil leader Velupillai Prabhakaran, whose group had been fighting for a separate state for Tamils in the north and east of the country since the 70s.

Mr Panchenko said he booked his flight to the country before the war had ended. He was joined by friends Guy Gunaratne and Heidi Lindvall, with the trio having since established their own company CoDoc Productions.

"We didn't know what to expect at first," said Mr Panchenko. "But because we were students we were granted all this amazing access. We even got a letter from the President's brother that allowed us to go to the biggest IDP (internally displaced persons) camp in the country."

Mr Panchenko hopes to showcase The Truth That Wasn't There at film festivals before making it available online and on DVD.

KCC's £10,000 'green' fund to aid eco projects

A SPECIAL 'green' conference with a fund of £10,000 to give away to groups with the best ideas for climate change projects is being staged, ***writes Chris Murphy***.

Those that can show their plans will pay back genuine benefits to the planet will get the cash to put them into action, said Kent County Council.

The authority said it wants to stimulate thinking on green issues, and has the cash to back the best.

KCC said groups wanting to develop environmental projects can pick up the skills to make their ideas a reality and "kick-start" local support for them at the Community Climate Change Conference 2010.

The event takes place on June 5 at the Singleton Environment Centre, Wesley School Road, Ashford.

Entries for the Climate Change Challenge Fund 2010 should result in either measurable carbon savings or boost the ability of a community to cope with changes.

They could focus on energy saving, awareness raising, renewable energy, carbon saving, or flood or heatwave plans.

Director of environment and waste for KCC Linda Davies, said: "The conference aims to provide people with the opportunity to gain the practical skills, knowledge, resources and ideas to start new or expand existing environmental projects within their community. The day will include a variety of talks and workshops to help kick-start your community to take action and make a difference to Kent's environment."

Speakers at the event include Chris Church, the chair of the UK Low Carbon Communities Network; representatives from Ashton Hayes, a rural community in Cheshire, which is aiming to become the UK's first carbon neutral community; the Energy Savings Trust; and the Environment Agency.

To book a place at the conference or apply for an application form for the fund, email climate.change@kent.gov.uk or visit www.kent.gov.uk/climatechange.

To see this clip search 'climate'
@ yourkenttv.co.uk

Organisers discuss this year's Canterbury Climate Fair, to be held in Ashford next month

Headteacher gives pupils a McLesson in healthy eating

Burgers off menu after deal with fast food giant

By **STEVE KNIGHT**
steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

HEADTEACHERS are being advised to lock the school gates at lunchtime to ensure pupils do not seek unhealthy food in burger bars and kebab shops.

The government-run School Food Trust says doing so will help children lead healthier lives, as well as reduce litter and stop pupils being late for afternoon lessons.

According to a survey of 73 takeaway dishes popular with young people, 54 contained more salt than is allowed under the nutrient-based standards controlling school meals, while 69 were flagged up for excessive amounts of salt, fat or saturated fat.

However, some headteachers are leading the way in changing pupils' perception of in-school dining.

The Folkestone Academy – which has persuaded staff at a nearby McDonald's not to serve its children – is one secondary that has been singled out for praise by the School Food Trust.

Principal Sean Heslop told KOS Media that pupils were banned from leaving the school anyway, but that the McDonald's agreement gave them a second line of defence against unhealthy eating.

"Temptation is on our doorstep," he said. "So not allowing children off-site during the school day is one way in which we have increased the take-up of school lunches.

"Although there would be punishment for any pupil that did go out the school gates, the agreement we have with McDonald's – who we have a very good relationship with – means that temptation is no longer there.

"The days when all a school cares about is the academic side of things are long gone. Now it's all about the overall development of our children, and the promotion of healthy eating is absolutely key to what we do."

About 95 per cent of pupils currently eligible for free school meals at the academy take up the offer, with about 75 per cent of all other children eating school dinners rather than packed lunch.

The latter figure is significantly higher than the national average of just 35 per cent in secondary schools.

Mr Heslop said one way the academy has achieved such a high figure is to stagger lunch breaks for each year group, resulting in each child being served quicker.

There are also several different choices of meals available, as well as vegetarian dishes, salads and sandwiches.

Chips are only ever served on a Friday.

Mr Heslop said: "I think the key to it is push and pull – keep the pupils in school, but make them want to stay there by offering them enjoyable dishes. It's no good serving them poor food."

As well as advising headteachers to lock the gates at lunchtime, the School Food Trust is also advising parents against giving their children money that will not be spent on school lunches.

The Folkestone Academy has got round this problem by issuing all pupils with pre-paid cards that are swiped in exchange for food.

Mr Heslop said this also tackles the problem of less well-off children being teased for receiving free school meals.

Kent County Council cabinet member for education Sarah Hohler said all meals provided in the county's schools meet the Government's food and nutrition standards.

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THE INTERVIEW

BY JANE CONNOLLY

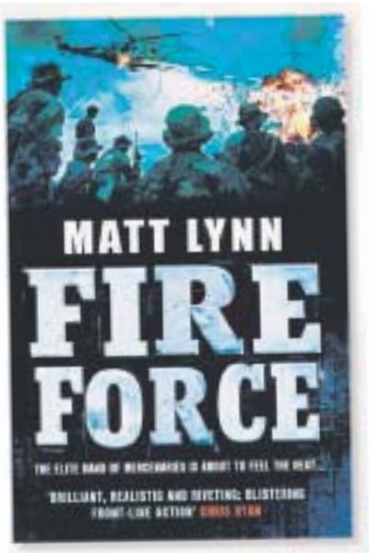
Conflicts of interest to Matt's band of brothers

AUTHOR Matt Lynn is really using the force in his series of gripping military thrillers.

The financial journalist from Goudhurst had already successfully branched out into the world of ghost writing when he decided to pen a novel under his own name. Death Force followed the adventures of a disparate group of mercenaries as they undertook a top secret mission in Afghanistan.

Described as 'Andy McNab meets Band of Brothers', the novel was a hit and the second instalment, Fire Force, will be published this week.

'There's more interest in real live wars rather than the Cold War, which was just a long one where no one did any fighting'



FEEL THE FORCE: Matt Lynn with new novel, Fire Force, which is published next week

"I was a ghost writer for a former SAS soldier and I got into it by accident, but I enjoyed it and it really interested me in the genre of military thrillers," he said. "It's a great set of stories."

Although non-fiction books on the subject were doing well, Lynn was surprised at the lack of fictional works about today's conflicts.

"It's a huge subject and I think that if you look at the thriller genre, lots of people are still writing about the Cold War, but that's not really where the conflict is anymore," he said. "There's more interest in real live wars rather than the Cold War, which was just a long one where no one did any fighting. They just spied on each other and stole things. It's taken a while for writers to catch up."

Lynn, 47, still works as a financial journalist and contributes to national newspapers, but he found that his experiences as a ghost writer gave him the perfect introduction to a second career in fiction.

"The SAS world is quite a closed one and it introduced me to that world," he said. "It was a good way in, because otherwise they [former SAS soldiers] are not that receptive to talking about it."

Also a big fan of Westerns, Lynn soon understood that although the two genres are generally considered very different, there are many similarities.

"When I was ghost writing, I suddenly realised I was writing Westerns," he said. "For decades, it was a hugely popular male fiction genre and it kind of disappeared about 10 or 15 years ago. I think it disappeared because it became too distant, historically.

"All those stories were set around the 1880s, which is a long time ago and Westerns were really popular about 50 years ago. All the SAS stories are about the Western – it's all about male stories and death and military thrillers are a continuation of that genre."

The third book, Shadow Force, is due to be published next year and will take Lynn's mercenaries into the dangerous world of Somali pirates. Lynn has no plans to abandon his band of brothers, with plenty more adventures on the horizon.

"It's a very flexible format as they can go pretty much anywhere, because they are not tied down," he said. "They can fly off to any conflict in the world, so there is no reason to stop doing them."

• ***Fire Force is published by Headline on Thursday (May 27) and is priced at £6.99.***

'Water strategy is not enough to avoid shortages'

By STEVE KNIGHT
steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

HOSEPIPE bans could become more frequent if South East Water presses ahead with a proposed new strategy for the region, a conservation group has warned.

According to Protect Kent – the county branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England – plans for new groundwater sources and a reservoir near Canterbury are "high risk" and will not be sufficient during times of drought.

The group voiced its concerns to mark the beginning of a public inquiry into the strategy, which will run until June 11 and is being led by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra).

Former Environment Agency water resources manager Graham Warren, now a senior figure at Protect Kent, spoke against the proposals.

He said: "Based on our many years of experience of the area, we have severe technical reservations about the proposed new groundwater sources [in the Weald] and a new reservoir at Broad Oak, near Canterbury. We think they just won't work.

"In dry periods, as we've had in recent years, this means more frequent hosepipe bans and more pumping from the Medway and the Stour at a time when the wildlife of these rivers is at its most vulnerable.

"This public inquiry gives an opportunity to expose the flawed thinking so we can get the best result for the people and environment of Kent."

FULL FLOW: South East Water wants Weald boreholes and a new reservoir

South East Water supplies drinking water to 2.1 million customers throughout Kent, Surrey, Sussex, Hampshire and Berkshire. The proposals for a new reservoir and boreholes form part of a wider strategy to ensure the region has a safe, sustainable and secure water supply until at least 2035.

After the public inquiry ends, new Environment Secretary Caroline Spelman will be given the task of making any changes to the strategy. It will then be revised every five years.

Protect Kent deputy director Sean Furey said: "The biggest thing is that the water companies really haven't worked together that well. We still have five serving the county and there's not much evidence of joined-up thinking between them.

"They're all trying to defend their own commercial interests and there has been very little guidance from the various regulators. There are all these different groups telling them to do different things, and they all come up with different answers."

The need for sustainable water sources was made all the more obvious in 2006 when the UK suffered its worst drought for a century.

That was the result of nearly two years of below-average rainfall that led to groundwater – from which three-quarters of public water supplies are drawn – dropping to very low levels. South East Water asset director Paul Seeley admitted some of the company's proposals would be unpopular.

He said: "There is no golden solution or perfect package that doesn't have an impact somewhere, or on someone or something.

"We can't afford to abandon our legal duty to provide water for future growth just because some solutions may be unpopular among some customers, or even some of our regulators.

"That's why having this debate is a shared responsibility between South East Water, Defra, the Environment Agency and customers and stakeholders. We all have a crucial part to play in this process."

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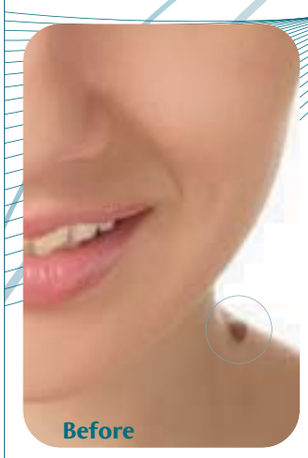

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Cameron plan gets a vote of no confidence

A LEADING constitutional expert has slammed David Cameron's new vote of confidence plan claiming it would hamper democracy at Westminster.

David Radlett, a lecturer at the University of Kent, said the Prime Minister's proposal to bring in a 55 per cent vote threshold was "alarming".

His views were echoed by several veteran Tories who were outraged by Mr Cameron's "undemocratic" plan that 55 per cent of MPs must agree to dissolve Parliament before a general election could be called.

Currently, the Queen can dissolve Parliament if the majority of MPs – 51 per cent – lose confidence in the controlling party. But if 55 per cent is needed it means it would be harder to oust Government.

The plan was put forward after Mr Cameron agreed to bring in fixed terms in Parliament as part of the coalition to reassure the Lib Dems the Tories would not call a snap general election.

In return, however, the Prime Minister said he required 55 per cent on a vote of no confidence to stop a Lib-Lab coalition forming, which would not hold enough seats for a majority.

Mr Radlett called the proposals "wrong-headed, alarming and unwelcome".

"They countenance the continuation in office of a Government in respect of which the people's representatives have expressed 'no confidence'," he said.

"That stigma of 'no confidence' will attach even if the tainted Government clings onto office. The proposal is unwelcome because it will inhibit Parliament doing its job."

He added: "Consultation with the electorate is needed to give any such change legitimacy. A fundamental change of this nature ought not to be made as if designed on the back of a packet of cigarettes."

While some senior MPs have also hit out at plans, claiming they would undermine Parliament, Kent's own are remaining tight-lipped. Those contacted by KOS Media said they would comment after further inspection of the proposals.

'Disgraceful' situation

Independent education advisor Peter Read examines Kent County Council's confusing change of heart on admissions to schools for Kent's children with special educational needs

8SIX YEARS ago Kent County Council decided to carry out a review of units within mainstream schools that support children with autism, specific learning difficulties, hearing impairment, visual impairment, physical disability or speech, language and communication difficulties

Last year they told families these units would be phased out and that there would be no new admissions in the pilot areas of Gravesham, Dartford, Swanley, Ashford and Shepway for September 2010.

Reversal

Many parents gave up seeking places in units as a result, only for KCC to quietly reverse its policy.

In reply to several questions I put to KCC this week, the authority says it does not know of any parents who have been told there are no places this September. This is simply not true.

Some Special Educational Needs (SEN) units have been telling parents for months of the KCC policy that there were to be no admissions to units this year, and KCC on its own website makes clear that this was the situation until the reversal of policy was quietly announced on an inner page last week.

On Thursday I spoke with parents who were angry that they had been misled by KCC and who now have to reapply for places in units.

Gravesham MP Adam Holloway has been campaigning for months to secure places in units for children of constituents who had been turned down, but was told in writing in February by then-KCC chief executive Peter Gilroy, and again in April by the Kent SEN manager, that there would be no places in pilot area units for September. I could go on with further examples.

The letter to headteachers last week informing them of the new policy some time after parents knew is so confusing that neither I nor two headteachers I consulted were clear as to what it was said.

Sadly, this is typical of most recent communications on this subject.

Chaos

What do I think of the situation? Frankly I think it is an utter disgrace, putting unreasonable pressure on vulnerable families and damaging units which have enjoyed an excellent reputation for years.

And for what? It has taken six years of considerable money, time and energy to discover that what is in place is best, and the main victims of this chaos are children whose needs are best met in SEN units – surely those who deserve the best possible care from the authority.

Visit www.kentadvice.co.uk for more information.

A KCC spokesman said the authority did not reverse its policy, and that at no point was a decision made to close the units.

See Mr Read's full assessment and KCC's full reply on our website: www.kentnews.co.uk

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Brave Nicole loses fight with cancer

INSPIRATIONAL charity fundraiser Nicole Dryburgh, who battled cancer for 10 years, died suddenly from a brain haemorrhage on Sunday.

She campaigned tirelessly to help other teenagers get good treatment for cancer by giving talks at schools and organisations.

She recently received the first-ever Anne Frank/Miep Gies award for people performing courageous acts in the most frightening situations.

Nicole spent much of her free time fundraising for charities.

Her latest project was to raise £100,000 for the Teenage Cancer Trust to help built a specialist unit at The Royal Marsden Hospital in Surrey where she has been treated since she was 11.

So far she had raised more than £74,000, and her family will keep her fund open so Nicole can reach her goal.

To donate money to Nicole's charity fund go to www.justgiving.com/nicolesfund.

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Lib Dems walk a scrutiny tightrope

By **STEVE KNIGHT**
steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

THE Con-Lib coalition in Parliament will make it even more difficult for Kent's Liberal Democrats to scrutinise their new allies at County Hall, councillors have been warned.

Kent County Council is currently made up of 74 Tories, seven Lib Dems and just two Labour members, meaning the Tories' allies on a national level are their official opponents locally.

This, says KCC Labour leader Cllr Leslie Christie, makes it almost impossible for the ruling Tory administration to be properly held to account.

He said: "From personal experience, when you're in local government you feel a defensive attitude towards your own party when they are in power. It's just natural and in the same way it makes it difficult to blame or criticise your own party.

"Year after year the Conservatives on KCC have criticised what they called the low settlements from the national government, so it will be interesting to hear what they say if it's the same again this year.

ALLIES: Nick Clegg's Westminster coalition with the Tories raises questions about scrutiny and accountability at county level

"The Lib Dems are caught in the same position, because being critical of the national government does not give them an easy excuse any more. The coalition is an inhibiting factor and I think they will now find it a lot more difficult to scrutinise the Tories.

"It puts a lot more pressure and responsibility on the two Labour councillors to speak up for the people of Kent and take on the Government if necessary."

The political landscape in Kent has turned almost entirely blue over the last 12 months, starting with the obliteration of Labour at last year's county elections.

Before polling day, the party held 20 seats at County Hall but lost all but two as the Tories tightened their grip on Kent.

The trend continued when all seven Labour MPs were sent packing from Parliament in favour of new Conservative candidates at the General Election earlier this month. All 12 district and borough councils in Kent are Tory-run.

KCC Lib Dem group leader Cllr Trudy Dean said the coalition Government would not stop members standing up for what they believed in.

"I don't agree with Cllr Christie's comments at all," she said. "There's not a coalition government in Kent and we will continue to scrutinise what KCC does, as we have done before.

"Right from the beginning we said we would provide constructive opposition.

"We don't oppose the Tories just for the sake of it, but we do scrutinise and we're putting a lot of effort into strengthening that process because we're finding that on many occasions our scrutiny goes up the back alley.

"The new coalition hasn't had any affect on the way we work, so far.

"If legislation comes down that we think is wrong, then we will say it is wrong whether it's our party that's in charge or not."

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Party exodus backlash boosts Labour rebuild

DISILLUSIONED Liberal Democrats are joining the Labour Party in a nationwide backlash against the Con-Lib coalition, ***writes Marijke Cox***.

In just 10 days, it has been claimed that thousands have swapped loyalties and signed up with their former rivals in response to the historic agreement between David Cameron and Nick Clegg.

Some said they were "appalled" by the party's decision to join with the Tories, while others confessed to feeling let down.

But a Lib Dem official said only 250 members had left the party nationwide, with 1,200 joining.

But a Labour spokeswoman claimed a third of the party's 12,000 new members were former Lib Dems. Defeated Maidstone and Weald Lib Dem parliamentary candidate Peter Carroll admitted there were some disappointed members.

"I've had emails from people saying they are unhappy and not going to carry on supporting the party," he said. "Others have said they voted for me and feel very let down."

But he said other members believe the coalition has given them a stronger voice at Westminster.

"There's a very mixed view on this," he said. "I'm struggling to come to terms with it, but it was best in the national interest."

Former Lib Dem leader Charles Kennedy revealed this week he had refused to vote for a coalition with the Conservatives.

Mr Carroll said he too would have abstained, given the chance. While polls show the Lib Dems are experiencing a drop in support, Kent's Labour members believe their party is staging a comeback.

Dr Stephen Ladyman, former Labour MP for Thanet South, said the rise in membership bodes well for the future.

"By the next General Election there will be a very big membership and we'll be ready for battle," he said. "We can win back a lot of the seats we lost. They're marginal in Kent and we got washed away with the tide. That won't happen next time."

Dr Ladyman said the large number of new Labour members was mainly down to people who had helped in the campaign, not just disillusioned Lib Dems.

"So far I've only come across a couple of Lib Dems who are talking of joining Labour."

Labour's Gwyn Prosser, who represented Dover and Deal before being ousted by Tory Charlie Elphicke, said: "It's very encouraging to hear of people joining Labour. Let's hope membership figures for Kent can reflect this national surge of support."

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EU gives cash to fund ponds

NEW ponds for wildlife will be created on Kent's North Downs, thanks to funding from the European Regional Development Fund.

Kent British Trust for Conservation Volunteers will manage the scheme and is inviting individuals and organisations to come forward and suggest where the ponds should be sited.

Project leader Fiona Houghton said: "Our Kent Pond Warden Scheme has for many years worked to conserve the county's ponds, about 400 of which disappear every year because of neglect, pollution, road improvements and property development.

This has devastating consequences for creatures and plants that live in and around the ponds."

The EU will fund up to 50 per cent of the cost of creating wildlife ponds in the Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, which extends from Westerham to Dover.

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New project will aid dementia sufferers

DEMENTIA is the most pressing issue facing health and social care with numbers expected to double in 20 years, according to experts, ***writes Marijke Cox***.

In Kent and Medway 21,000 people suffer from the progressive brain disease which affects mental ability, such as memory and communication.

To tackle the problem and help sufferers and their carers, a new project has been launched by Kent County Council, Medway Council and the county's three primary care trusts.

It follows plans to reduce numbers of beds in the NHS's Cavalry Park Gardens Leedham Ward, in Tunbridge Wells, which specialises in helping patients in severe stages of dementia.

Emma Hanson, joint commissioning manager for dementia services at NHS West Kent and Kent Adult Social Services, said the new initiative is just as important, if not more, than end-of-life care.

"We are providing a new website and helpline for people affected by dementia, as well as peer support groups and informal drop-ins called dementia cafés," she said.

"The 24-hour helpline is for people in emotional distress or those experiencing difficulties.

HELP: Dementia is on the increase

"This is all about providing information for people – knowledge really is power in this case.

"People are often diagnosed six or seven years into the disease or at a stage of crisis, which means it is much harder for them to prepare for what is going to happen to them."

Ms Hanson confirmed the removal of beds in Tunbridge Wells, but stressed the more sufferers and carers that are helped early on, the fewer beds will be needed in the future.

"What we're trying to do is take money out of crisis response and end-of-life care, and support people early on," she said.

"But to be pro-active the money has to come from somewhere. We're not given new money so we have to think about how we use it in the best way and take it from other areas to help improve services."

Ms Hanson said the authorities and NHS joined together to launch the project instead of using separate schemes around the county.

"This project is absolutely vital. As more people are living longer, figures are expected to double in the next 20 years and costs will treble.

"Only 44 per cent of people are coming forward to get diagnosed and we need to increase this figure.

"Dementia is the most pressing issue facing health and social care."

Tuesday's launch of the new dementia initiative was attended by sufferers and their carers, with a speech by KCC's older people's champion Cllr Mike Angell, deputy cabinet member for adult social services.

Alzheimer's disease is the most common form of dementia. It affects some 417,000 people in the UK.

The 24-hour helpline is 0845 604 4391 and for information and help go to www.dementiawebkentandmedway.org.uk.

Excitement over loved-up herons

RARE SIGHT: Purple herons have never nested in UK Picture: DAVID FEATHERBE

A NESTING pair of purple herons have set up home in Dungeness – the first time this has happened in the UK.

The striking birds breed in southern Europe and visit the UK in small numbers each year. But the pair on the Dungeness peninsula are set to be the first to lay eggs and raise young in the country.

The RSPB has set up a round-the-clock guard to protect the birds, with the help of Kent Police.

A spokeswoman for the RSPB said: "Purple herons are high up on the list of birds that we expect to see setting up home in southern Britain as the changing climate pushes them further north. This highlights the importance of wildlife havens like Dungeness in providing space for species displaced by global warming."

Meanwhile the RSPB says the Dungeness nature reserve is under threat by the proposed expansion of Lydd airport – claims strongly denied by airport chiefs.

Tournament held for hospice

A CHARITY football tournament is being held to raise money for the Heart of Kent Hospice.

The five-a-side competition will take place at Cobdown Sports and Social Club, Ditton, from 8.30am-6pm on Sunday, June 6.

Entertainment will also be provided in the form of a bouncy castle, face-painting, fun fair and more.

The day is being organised by the Kings Hill-based recruitment firm Pearson Whiffin.

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Family tribute to 78-year-old father killed in lorry accident

THE heartbroken family of a pensioner killed by a lorry last week have paid tribute to their loved one.

Joseph Michael Geoghegan, 78, leaves behind a son, daughter and a partner, Joan Youens.

His son Paul, 52, said: "Dad was enjoying his life, with a partner who he loved. He was an active man and was seeing out his later years by going on cruises and travelling around the world.

"I never expected to get a call to say that he had died like this, and it's a terrible way to lose him.

"It's a tragedy that he couldn't go on doing what he was doing and making the most of his later years in life."

Mr Geoghegan was struck by a truck at 2.10pm on Wednesday, May 12, in Watling Street, Gillingham. He died from injuries at Medway Maritime Hospital.

A Celebration of Volunteering

Friday 4th - Sunday 6th June 2010

As part of this year's National UK Volunteers' Week (1-7 June), Volunteer Centre Gravesham and St George's Gravesend are coming together to celebrate volunteering in style. It's a weekend of opportunities to recognise, reward and recruit volunteers.

Friday 4th June 12 noon - 3pm **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & RECEPTION**
Old Town Hall, High Street, Gravesend

Saturday 5th June 10am-4pm **VOLUNTEER FAIR**
St George's Church Hall, Church Street, Gravesend
An opportunity to meet local voluntary & community organisations and find out what they do in the community, how they can help you and how you can help them by becoming a volunteer.

Sunday 6th June 3pm
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£4m grant will boost Kent's French relations

By **MARIJKE COX**

COUNTY Hall officials have met with their French counterparts after securing almost £4 million of European funding to help deliver vital services.

The money is a share of a joint bid by Kent County Council and the Pas-de-Calais Conseil General as part of an ongoing project to help communities in both regions.

Funds will be used to improve the delivery of public services across the county, including through the Kent Gateways Programme, which offers advice to the public on subjects ranging from housing to health.

Leader of KCC Paul Carter said this is just one part of the successful relationship between the authorities.

"We have a lot of shared interests and there is big co-operation between Kent and Calais," he said.

"Tourism is a large part of our work, but there is a whole range of issues we are working on, particularly improving the delivery of services for residents. For example, we have discussed the ageing population, where there's a massive increase in elderly people who are going to at some point need help."

Officials from both authorities met on Tuesday at Leeds Castle in Maidstone for an update on joint projects, including exchange apprenticeships and high-speed rail link initiatives.

Cllr Carter added: "Getting to London and Paris with the Eurostar and HS1 is now so easy; there is nothing stopping you having lunch in Paris and dinner in London."

Future plans for a Dickens Year to boost tourism, a bid for world heritage status for the Dover Straits and Olympic projects were also discussed.

Celebrations

Cllr Carter said: "We're in competition with Calais in trying to get teams to training camps in our areas.

"But both regions are going to benefit from tourism in 2012 and we are already sharing and promoting ideas.

"Last year's joint celebration of the centenary of the first flight across the English Channel showed how well we can work together."

As part of the celebrations of Louis Bleriot's historic crossing, the authorities ran a joint programme called the Channel Hop, where students and the public could experience walks in Kent and Calais.

The same year, Hardelot Castle, near Le Touquet in Pas-de-Calais, was re-opened and dedicated to both regions, with French and British exhibitions, as a symbol of the partnership.

On Tuesday, tourism experts from Visit Kent took part in discussions to update officials on projects.

This included an announcement on the Greet the World campaign, which aims to boost the number of cross-Channel visitors in the run up to the Olympics, where a grant of £1.9m was received from the European Regional Development Fund. Some £1.2m was also awarded for the Coastal Actions on Sustainable Tourism project, which looks to increase coastal tourism in Kent and Calais.

Dominique Dupilet, president of Pas-de-Calais Conseil General, said it was essential the two authorities worked together.

"This is about making people realise the Channel is no longer a barrier between the countries," he said.

"We can create a kind of Eurozone attracting people from all over."

M Dupilet praised KCC on its work and said the French authority had looked at ways of implementing some of the same methods and ideas.

He added: "Sharing knowledge in this way means we are less likely to make mistakes."

Funding claimed for projects is through Interreg, a community initiative aimed at stimulating interregional co-operation in the EU, financed under the European Regional Development Fund.

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By STEVE KNIGHT
steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

New sports minister is sure World Cup bid can overcome Triesman row

ENGLAND can overcome the Lord Triesman scandal and win the right to host the 2018 World Cup, claims new sports minister Hugh Robertson.

The Tory MP for Faversham and Mid Kent barely had time to enjoy landing such a high-profile job before the Mail on Sunday revealed the now former FA chairman Lord Triesman had accused rival bidders Spain and Russia of corruption.

He resigned almost immediately, but it is feared the damage may already be done and that England may miss out on hosting its first World Cup since 1966 as a result.

Mr Robertson, however, is adamant that all is not lost.

"I agree that it has hurt our chances and it would have been better if this hadn't happened," he said. "But it's not something we can't overcome.

"The core strengths of England's bid remain. The stadia are up and already built, we have huge financial backing, the best fans and a real strong legacy on the back of it.

"When the time comes for the vote these core strengths will still be there and everything else will be forgotten about."

Football's world governing body Fifa is to launch an investigation into Lord Triesman's comments, which were taped by a former aide during a private conversation.

The allegations included a claim that Spain and Russia – rival bidders for the 2018 World Cup – were conspiring to bribe referees at next month's finals in South Africa as part of underhanded tactics to win the right to host the tournament.

Following his resignation as chairman from both the FA and England's bid committee, Lord Triesman was replaced in the former position by temporary duo David Sheepshanks and Roger Burden, and by Geoff Thompson for the latter.

Kent County FA chairman Barry Bright also chaired the FA council's annual general meeting on Wednesday in Lord Triesman's absence.

Mr Robertson said it was the right decision for him to step down.

He added: "It's a great tragedy for him personally and he deserves enormous credit for taking the bid as far as he has, but everyone in public life knows that you have to be careful what you say to people.

"It's an absolutely unbreakable rule that you don't attack opposition bids and unfortunately he found that out the hard way."

Mr Robertson, 47, was elected as MP for Faversham and Mid Kent in June, 2001, replacing his outgoing Tory colleague Andrew Rowe.

He was appointed shadow sports minister in February, 2005, and also took responsibility for the Olympics following London's successful bid for the 2012 games.

Mr Robertson said of his new role as sports minister: "You never bank on getting these jobs and clearly with all the negotiations that have been going on I didn't know if I was likely to get it or not, but I'm absolutely delighted I did.

"What with the planning for the 2012 Olympics and the bid for the 2018 World Cup, there's never been a more exciting time to be a sports minister.

"I'm hoping to help build a sporting legacy for this country off the back of them both."

BAD ERROR OF JUDGEMENT: Kent MP Hugh Robertson (right) is confident that England's bid to host 2018 World Cup will not be affected by the claims Lord Triesman (far right) is alleged to have said against fellow bidders Russia and Spain

SPORTS minister Hugh Robertson says it would be impossible for the Government to impose huge cuts on the budget for the 2012 Olympics.

Despite a warning by new Culture Secretary Jeremy Hunt that funding for the Games was not protected, Mr Robertson insists that does not mean massive cuts are on the horizon.

He said: "No party went into the election promising to protect the Olympics budget, but it's a different type of project because you have to make commitments at the beginning. We've reached a stage now where we couldn't really make big cuts anyway because it would mean breaking contracts and so on. You can't stop the Olympic stadium or the aquatics centre going up.

"There's no way we can deliver massive cuts. What we can do though is review the project and identify where sensible savings might be made."

Harbour plan 'a new approach'

By **JAMES ALEXANDRE**
james.alexandre@kosmedia.co.uk

UP to 1,000 new homes with shops, restaurants, and an enlarged shingle beach feature in revised regeneration plans for Folkestone Harbour.

The railway viaduct will be re-opened as a 'green walkway', but cross-Channel ferries will not be reintroduced.

The ambitious plans for the seafront were unveiled this week by internationally-renowned architect Sir Terry Farrell at the arts venue Quarterhouse.

Trevor Minter of the Folkestone Harbour Company told the audience this was a "once in a century" opportunity to emulate what the Victorians achieved for the town.

Explaining the adjustments made from the original masterplan drawn up by Lord Foster, he said: "The world has changed, the factors have changed and what we did is go back to the drawing board and think again about how to approach it.

"The economy has gone in a completely different direction since we planned previously and housing values have not only failed to go up, they've gone downwards."

Sir Terry said he wanted to build on the town's rich and varied history, its high-speed rail connections to Europe and London, and regeneration already taking place in the Creative Quarter.

He said: "I first came down to Folkestone two years ago and I've worked on regeneration in historic places. I've a personal commitment to that and it's the kind of thing one does from conviction."

The enlarged shingle beach will cover the old tarmac and concrete where clusters of small villas will be situated. It will also act as an organic and eco-friendly sea defence system and possible location of a new water sports centre.

VISION: The viaduct will become a walkway

The railway viaduct will be incorporated as a new 'green walkway' for pedestrians and cyclists, leading out to the harbour arm.

Sir Terry said: "We want to reconnect the town centre with the seafront."

Mr Minter ruled out use of the harbour for commercial traffic and said the reintroduction of cross-Channel ferries was not viable.

He said they wanted to use the pier to reflect the themes of art and history and recognise its significant role during World War Two.

The costs of the project would "evolve over time", and the scheme would probably take the rest of the year to pull together before starting the planning process.

Last week Shepway council approved plans for a £2 million fish restaurant and bar in the harbour, due to be completed by spring 2011.

Public meetings about the plans are at Quarterhouse at 7pm on Tuesday, May 25, at 2pm on Thursday, June 3; at 7pm on Monday, June 14; and at 11am on Saturday, June 26.

Each presentation is free but places must be reserved by calling 01303 858500 or emailing info@quarterhouse.co.uk.

Alternatively visit the website at www.folkestoneseafront.com.

DNA convicts rapist 24 years after crime

RAPIST: Paul Dyne

A RAPIST has pleaded guilty to the sexual assault of a teenager committed more than 24 years ago.

Paul Dyne, 44, from New Malden in Surrey, has admitted attacking the 18-year-old as she walked along College Road, Deal, in February, 1986.

Advances in technology meant Kent Police's cold case team were able to link Dyne's profile with DNA evidence taken at the time.

He pleaded guilty at Maidstone Crown Court last Friday, but will not be sentenced until Thursday, June 10.

Det Chief Insp Dave Withers said: "In 1986 a young woman's life was changed dramatically by this horrific, unprovoked attack. Twenty-four years have passed, and she has lived with this every day.

"We hope today, with the conviction of Dyne for this terrible crime, she is now able to move on with her life."

Dyne's victim had been walking to buy milk at a local shop when she was grabbed from behind, at about 7.30pm.

A hand was put over her mouth and she was dragged to wasteland in Ark Lane, where Dyne threatened her with a knife before covering her eyes with a scarf and raping her.

The teenager went home following the attack, and her father called the police.

Officers later discovered that Dyne was living with family in College Road at the time of the attack, and had also been working at a factory next to the wasteland.

Andy Douglas from the Forensic Science Service said: "Advances in DNA allow the Forensic Science Service to revisit unsolved cases and look for opportunities to apply new techniques to old cases.

"It demonstrates how far science has brought us in the past 20 years. It has allowed us to support Kent Police in bringing an offender to justice."

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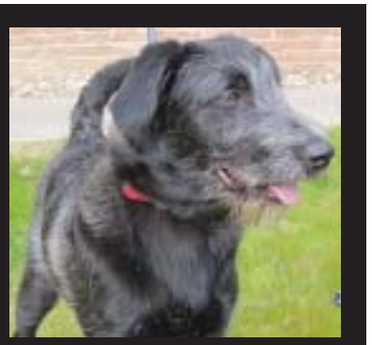

Pup left to die lives life to Max

THIS is Max, the miracle puppy who survived being lobbed from the window of a speeding car.

He was found close to death at the side of the road, said police as they hunt the cruel motorist.

Laura Wills, who works at the Kent Police Force Communications Centre adopted Max, and has spent £1,100 on vet bills to get him back to health.

Max was one of three dogs tossed out of the vehicle on the Wainscott Bypass, near Strood.

Laura said: "PC Dave Brett found two puppies already dead. He took Max to the PDSA and I said if he survived I would take him. His jaw and leg were broken and he had fleas and worms, but was still desperate to play."

Five months on he is a healthy and much-loved part of Laura's family.

Anyone with any information on the incident can call police on 01622 690690.

New MPs 'privileged to be part of history'

By **MARIJKE COX**
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WITH a record number of first-time MPs taking office after the General Election, the buzz of Westminster is tinged with nerves.

And with the first coalition government for 70 years and the initial uncertainty over any potential deal between the parties, it was no ordinary week in Parliament.

But with a Con-Lib Dem coalition formed and Prime Minister David Cameron at the helm with deputy Nick Clegg at his side, the new boys and girls of Parliament started the work they had promised their constituents in their election campaigns.

Gareth Johnson, Conservative MP for Dartford, and one of Kent's 13 new MPs said: "We're all acutely aware that the hard work starts now.

"The hung parliament meant at first there was a period of uncertainty and we were sailing into uncharted political territory, but now we're all finding our feet.

"What was surreal was that we were all in the middle of political history being made. It was a real privilege to be involved in something that hadn't happened in 70 years."

Mr Johnson, who beat Labour's John Adams to secure the Dartford seat previously held by Labour's Howard Stoate, said his first week at the Palace of Westminster had been "awe-inspiring".

SWORN IN: Dartford MP Gareth Johnson and Chatham and Aylesford MP Tracey Crouch

"It's incredible – I'm thoroughly enjoying it," he said. "I'm in a shared office at the moment and I've been dealing with my own admin, but over the next few weeks I'll take on staff.

"I'm not sure whether I'll use people with parliamentary experience or someone who knows Dartford. It's important to have somebody with a connection to my constituency."

Each MP is allowed up to three-and-a-half members of staff and will be allocated offices in Portcullis House, the Palace of Westminster or the Norman Shaw Building.

Mr Johnson said: "We do have facilities at the moment and we're making the best of it.

"The whole parliamentary estate is just inspiring and formidable – it's a real privilege to be working here."

Mr Johnson, a solicitor, added: "You don't clock in and out in this job – it's a way of life, both for myself and my family."

Tracey Crouch, Conservative MP for Chatham and Aylesford, was another of the 232 new MPs to start at Westminster on Monday, May 10, after resigning from her job at insurance firm Aviva.

The 34-year-old was given an induction with other MPs, and allocated a locker, a pass, a laptop and a BlackBerry.

She said: "Part of the induction included a tour and as we were taken into the chamber our BlackBerries started buzzing and we realised something significant was happening; Gordon Brown had announced he was stepping down as Labour leader."

Ms Crouch then took part in her first 1922 Committee meeting of Tory backbenchers.

"The chief whip and leader of the Conservative Party entered and everyone cheered," she said.

"It was clear that even David Cameron was overwhelmed by the sight of 300-plus Conservative MPs standing in front of him."

The second day on the job saw the 150 new Tory MPs go through a full induction.

Ms Crouch said: "Mr Cameron popped in and congratulated me on my win in Chatham and Aylesford. Little did I know the next time I would see him he would be Prime Minister."

The House of Commons formally returned on Tuesday, May 18, and new members started swearing in the following day.

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Access all areas this weekend at road's big dig

THERE is a unique opportunity this weekend to see the archaeological discoveries made at the biggest dig in the country this year.

The East Kent Access site in Thanet is holding public open days on Saturday and Sunday.

Visitors will be given guided tours around two of the excavations and a regular shuttle bus will run between them.

At Tothill Street, Minster, volunteers are helping archaeologists excavate a medieval enclosure and a Bronze Age burial mound.

On the second site, visitors will be able to see the remains of another Bronze Age monument and an Iron Age enclosure.

Coal remains on back-burner despite carbon capture policy

PLANS for a coal-fired power station at Kingsnorth remain uncertain after the Government unveiled new 'clean coal' measures as part of its coalition agreement.

By **MARIJKE COX**
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Prime Minister David Cameron and his deputy Nick Clegg revealed their joint policy on the environment last week, spelling out the need for adequate Carbon Capture and Storage (CSS).

The technology, which captures carbon dioxide, is seen as essential if the country is to continue burning coal for electricity, while meeting strict targets on greenhouse gas emissions.

Both parties agreed to implement an emissions performance standard (EPS), which sets a limit to the amount of pollutants that can be released into the environment.

It means construction of coal-fired stations, like the one planned for the Hoo peninsula, could be prevented unless they meet the tough CCS regulations.

In March energy firm E.ON, which is behind the Kingsnorth plans, was granted funding by the Department of Energy and Climate Change for a study on CCS.

But if the EPS policy is implemented in the next year, proposals for a new station could be at risk. If EPS levels are set too low, plans could even be scrapped, according to Greenpeace.

Its spokesman added: "If levels are too high, however, it could still go ahead. The agreement is good news, but we won't know what's happening for a while."

A spokesman from E.ON said the firm was looking forward to working with the new Government, but admitted details about EPS levels which could determine future plans were still unknown.

A spokesman said: "We remain committed to fitting CCS on at least part of the new station from day one, and are now engaged in a study."

The research forms part of a Department of Energy and Climate Change competition where E.ON will battle it out with Scottish Power's Longannet plant in Fife to win £1 billion funding for a new CCS facility.

Dr Paul Golby, chief executive of E.ON, said: "It's vital we get CCS right and heartening to see we're now getting some real movement here in the UK," he said. "We should remember the long game with CCS is not just about Kingsnorth, it's about a worldwide battle against climate change."

EPS is one of a full list of measures drawn up by new Government that MP Chris Huhne will have to face in his new role as Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change.

Mr Huhne admitted new nuclear power plants would still be built, despite his party being opposed to them.

Decommissioning

But he argued that under the agreement no public funding would be granted for constructions, with only privately built reactors going ahead.

Last year, Labour put forward a shortlist of 11 potential sites for new nuclear power plants, including Dungeness.

But the site, which already has two reactors, one of which was decommissioned, was removed from the list for environmental reasons. Senior politicians in Kent called for the decision to be overturned, arguing a power station would create jobs for 2,000 people during construction and a further 350-450 over a 60-year period.

Damian Collins, the new Tory MP for Folkestone and Hythe, said he would continue to push for nuclear power at Dungeness.

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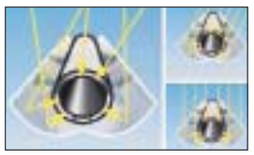

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Carter vows to be key ally in coalition's devolution

A CON-LIB commitment to give more power to local authorities has been welcomed by Kent County Council leader Paul Carter.

The Tory County Hall chief spoke of the benefits of devolution on several occasions before the General Election, and this week said the promise by Prime Minister David Cameron and his deputy Nick Clegg presented "enormously exciting possibilities" for the county.

Cllr Carter was referring in particular to a section in the coalition agreement that stated both parties would "promote greater devolution of power and financial autonomy to local government and community groups, including a full review of local government finance".

And he will have a key ally in helping to shape that agenda in the form of Tunbridge Wells MP Greg Clark, who has been appointed the new minister for decentralisation.

Cllr Carter said: "I believe in the best principles of subsidiarity, which means passing down the decisions best taken at a local level and with the right sense of scale.

"In recent years things have become far too centralised and not enough power has been devolved to local authorities.

"But Kent has an excellent record as the top authority in the country and is well-positioned to help shape the new agenda. The new government preaches the gospel of devolution and empowerment, so let's do business.

Innovate

"Let's engage and enthuse and innovate and make sure we get the appropriate form of devolution that will make the world and Kent a better place."

Last January, Cllr Carter – who also represents 74 local authorities as chairman of South East England Councils – published a paper entitled Bold Steps for Radical Reform, which described how massive savings could be made at a national level if the country was split into 46 sub-regions.

This, he said, would eliminate the need for unelected bodies like the South East England Development Agency (Seeda).

Cllr Carter's proposals for devolution were backed at the time by Bromley and Chislehurst MP Bob Neill, who will join Greg Clark in the new-look Department for Communities and Local Government as a junior minister.

Mr Clark was elected as MP for Tunbridge Wells in 2005 after the resignation of fellow Tory and current ITV chairman Archie Norman.

In October, 2008, he was appointed shadow secretary of state for energy and climate change but missed out on a place in the new Cabinet when the new jobs were announced last week.

Speaking about his new role as minister for decentralisation, Mr Clark said: "It's all-encompassing and about the transfer of power from central government to the people. I'm very excited about it.

"It's a huge agenda and something I've long had an interest in. I wrote a book, Total Politics, which was all about decentralisation and it's good to have a chance to put it into practice.

"I think there is far too much power held by the centre and we need to get it back to communities, local people and local councils."

News and sport updated daily online
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Family pride at legacy as Nicole's long battle ends

TRIBUTES have been paid to inspirational campaigner and fundraiser Nicole Dryburgh, who died last Sunday after suffering a brain haemorrhage, ***writes Steve Knight***.

The 21-year-old from Whitstable was diagnosed with cancer when she was just 11 and had also suffered an earlier haemorrhage and a stroke, leaving her wheelchair-bound, blind and virtually deaf.

But despite her ill-health, Nicole devoted her life to helping others and raised more than £130,000 for charity.

She also wrote two books about her various illnesses, the first of which – The Way I See It – was serialised in the national press.

A statement from Nicole's mother, Jackie, and brother, Lee, read: "Right up until Saturday Nicole was happy and her usual upbeat self, planning her next fundraising event.

"We are so proud of everything she achieved and the legacy she leaves. Nicole loved the glitz and adored the people she met along the way.

"She died peacefully in hospital. Lee and I thank everyone for their kind thoughts and best wishes, and the hospital staff for the care and kindness they showed us."

Picture: JULES SERKIN

LEGACY: Nicole with brother Lee and mother Jackie

Nicole was a competition-winning gymnast when an operation revealed a rare type of cancerous tumour close to her spine.

Through radiotherapy it was reduced, but two years later she suffered the brain haemorrhage, which left her blind at aged 13.

This was followed by a stroke which confined her to a wheelchair, and tumours were later discovered behind Nicole's ears which virtually destroyed her hearing.

Yet Nicole battled back in the face of extreme adversity, winning a host of fund-raising awards and admirers along the way.

Her latest project was to raise £100,000 for the Teenage Cancer Trust to help build a specialist unit at the Royal Marsden Hospital, Surrey, where she had been treated since the age of 11. Nicole had raised £74,000 before her death, but her family have pledged to keep the fund open.

Teenage Cancer Trust chief executive Simon Davies said: "Nicole touched the hearts of so many and was a beacon of inspiration."

Visit www.justgiving.com/nicolesfund to donate money.

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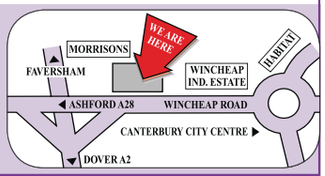

County Hall intensifies efforts to repair roads damaged by ice

Another £1m poured into pothole problem

COUNTY Hall has agreed to pump an extra £1 million into tackling Kent's pothole-ridden roads, ***writes Steve Knight***.

The authority has already set aside £2m to repair the damage caused by last winter's severe cold, but the cash is expected to run out by the end of next month.

It is hoped the extra funding – agreed by Kent County Council cabinet members on Monday – will extend the 'find and fix' scheme until the first half of August.

About £440,000 will come from the £2.44m grant awarded by the previous Labour government, with the rest taken from an untouched £1m pot originally put aside by KCC.

Cabinet member for highways, Cllr Nick Chard, said: "I'm pleased we recognised what the problem was and acted quickly – a lot more quickly than many other councils. What we're asking for now is patience.

"It might appear that nothing is happening at the end of your road, but that's probably because it's not one of our first priorities. We will get to you eventually."

The 'find and fix' scheme has been running since mid April and more than 3,300 potholes have been already been filled.

Up until May 10, Ashford had seen the most repairs, with 704; and Dover the least, with 67. In terms of total size of potholes, Shepway topped the patching area table with 1,786 square metres – despite only 83 potholes being repaired.

The roads being targeted are all 'non-principal' roads – those which are not motorways, A-roads or B-roads, with local firms winning contracts to carry out the work.

Motorways are the responsibility of the Highways Agency, while A and B roads are being handled by KCC contractor, Ringway.

KCC leader Cllr Paul Carter told cabinet members he thought the quality of the work carried out so far was "superb", but was concerned Ringway had not made as much progress as he would have hoped.

Kent Highways Services director John Burr said: "We met to ask Ringway to put additional repair gangs on. They are now refocused and raising the level."

■ MORE than 2,000 motorists have asked KCC to pay for damage caused to their vehicles by potholes.

Last winter left many of the county's major routes in a state of disrepair, creating yet another hazard for road-users after the snow and ice.

However, figures obtained by KOS Media through a Freedom of Information Act request show that of 2,086 motorists who claimed for repairs to their vehicles between December 18 and April 23, only 34 have been successful so far. Of those, just 18 have already received cash to fund the work, with £837.25 the largest amount paid out. The lowest sum paid so far is £61.58.

Of the remaining 2,052 claims, 842 were rejected and 1,210 have yet to be investigated. KCC's website states that for a compensation claim to succeed, there must be clear evidence the council has been negligent in its role as a highway authority.

It reads: "It is accepted in law that the highway network cannot remain in a perfect condition at all times and that KCC should not automatically be held accountable for all highway-related incidents."

The severity of Kent's pothole problem became clear one January morning when at least eight drivers had to pull over on the M20 after suffering punctures to their tyres as a result of a particularly deep hole.

Workmen closed two lanes of the London-bound carriageway while temporary repairs were carried out, causing a five-mile tailback during rush hour.

News and sport updated daily online
www.kentnews.co.uk

Police buck trend for overtime rises

SPENDING on police overtime in Kent has fallen dramatically, while other forces struggle with rising costs.

In 2002-03, about £10 million was spent on overtime in the county, but figures for 2009-10 showed a fall to £7m – down from five per cent to 2.5 per cent of the overall police budget.

But while Kent Police Authority (KPA), which monitors Kent Police, can boast its lowest overtime figures in 10 years, statistics show the UK average has risen by 90 per cent in the same period.

KPA chairwoman Ann Barnes said: "We have programmes under way to make sure we use our officers wisely. We want less overtime and a strong performing force."

Kent Police are reviewing the structure of the force as part of cost-cutting work. Despite lower overtime costs, latest Home Office figures show overall recorded crime in Kent has dropped 12 per cent since January, 2009.

Task teams

KPA chief executive Mark Gilmartin said the authority and police had worked to reduce overtime. Officer numbers have grown in the past decade, with neighbourhood task teams tackling crime and anti-social behaviour.

But the KPA asserted this was not a factor in the overtime reduction.

Mr Gilmartin said: "You can't always avoid overtime, but we have worked to reduce it. Just because we have good figures doesn't mean we'll become complacent."

Nationally, overtime costs rose by 90 per cent between 1999 and 2009, reaching £400m last year, according to the Centre for Crime and Justice Studies.

Pay rates for overtime within Kent Police are calculated in accordance with regulations. Officers are also able to take time off in lieu rather than payment for extra hours worked.

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"It is worth remembering that even though 3D TV content is limited at the moment, this new breed of TV provides fantastic picture quality for regular 2D viewing, and with film-makers such as Dreamworks installing 3D cameras into their studios, viewers can look forward to a wide range of 3D film content available in their homes, so a 3D TV is a great investment purchase."

Later this year, Sky will be launching its 3D TV service allowing viewers to enjoy the best of Sky's 3D TV programming, including movies, arts, entertainment and sport.

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'The bomb fell in front of my eyes'

WWII bomb disposal expert talks about surviving the Blitz and the siege of Malta in a job with a life expectancy of 10 days

By **MARIJKE COX**
marijke.cox@kosmedia.co.uk

ONE of the oldest surviving bomb disposal officers has relived his memories of working in "the most bombed place on Earth".

Former Lieutenant George Carroll was one of a handful of men who dealt with a record 7,300 unexploded bombs over a two-year period in Malta during World War Two.

By 1942, the small country was known as the most bombed place on Earth, where more than 6,700 tons of bombs fell in just six weeks during one of the worst periods of attack.

Mr Carroll, a retired schoolteacher from Gillingham, was presented with a new book, UXB Malta by Susan Hudson, at a ceremony last week in tribute of the work of the disposal men.

The event marked the 70th anniversary of Army bomb disposal, with the book uncovering previously unknown tales of those who faced death on a daily basis.

Mr Carroll was one of the luckier ones who survived the London Blitz and Malta bombings in a job that had a life-expectancy of just 10 weeks at that time.

By the end of the war, 394 officers and men had been killed and 209 injured.

Frightening

The 92-year-old said: "I was always aware any one of us might be killed, but you had a job to do. You couldn't allow yourself to be overcome by your feelings. One of my fellow officers died at home when he tried to dismantle a fuse.

"They used to say that a bomb disposal officer goes through three stages; first he's concerned through lack of knowledge, then he uses knowledge gained from experience.

"But the third stage – long immunity from accident – can bring a fatal disregard for safety."

Mr Carroll, who defused his first bomb three weeks before any training, said his most frightening personal experience was during the siege of Malta.

He said: "I was working on an unexploded bomb which had landed on top of an arch – as the officer I had to deal with it alone. I crawled across the arch and was scraping away gently with a trowel, trying to find the fuse.

"Then suddenly the bomb fell, right in front of my eyes. It hit the ground – and I died – and it bounced – and I died – and it rolled – and I died – but I didn't die.

SAFE HANDS: George Carroll faced death on a daily basis defusing UXBs

"That was the feeling, when that happened in front of you."

Mr Carroll also worked during the London Blitz, but admitted it was nowhere near as bad as Malta.

"The bombing on London was bad, but at least it was mainly at night," he said.

"It was nothing compared to Malta, where we were bombed around the clock and we had to keep working during the day, whether there were air raids or not.

"Because London is built on clay, bombs travelled a long way into the ground – and not in a straight path – so there was a lot of digging to find a bomb.

"My men started digging in Hendon in November, 1941, and we still hadn't found it when I left for Malta in January.

"I learned afterwards it was the deepest bomb ever found in London – 60ft deep."

Mr Carroll said the basic principles of the job are still the same now, except for the bombs, where each one now differs from the next.

"Although the Germans and Italians designed different bombs and fuses, they were mass produced," he said. "Once you knew how to deal with a type of fuse, you could repeat the action with the next one."

Families of those who served in the siege of Malta attended Monday's ceremony, where Mr Carroll was guest of honour.

He added: "I wouldn't say I enjoyed the job but there was a feeling of satisfaction when I defused a bomb."

After his war service, Mr Carroll graced the London stage as an actor before becoming head of science at what was Upbury Manor School in Gillingham, now New Brompton College.

• ***For information on UXB Malta go to www.uxb.maltablogspot.com***

Man jailed over vicious attack

A BLOODTHIRSTY thug has been jailed for five years after trying to bite off a man's nose and ear during an assault.

Michael Kidner, of Barnsole Road, Gillingham, headbutted, punched and then bit his victim at the man's Balmoral Road house in July last year.

His nose was so badly damaged that it required specialist surgery at East Grinstead Hospital.

Kidner, 27, was arrested in August, 2009, and charged with wounding with intent the next day.

He denied the offence but was convicted following a trial at Maidstone Crown Court.

Det Con Caroline Bentley-Read said: "This was a violent assault in which the victim suffered serious injuries.

"He was lucky surgeons were able to repair his nose. Kidner has continued to claim that he was not responsible for this crime, but we are pleased that the jury found him guilty.

"A five-year sentence is a substantial amount of time in prison and we are happy that the judge has recognised that Kidner is a dangerous offender.

"This sentence sends a clear message that anyone who is involved in carrying out violent assaults will be put before the courts and brought to justice."

Two years ago KoS reporter **PHIL REILLY** left this newspaper for his dream job – to be a press officer at Liberal Democrat Party HQ. A passionate supporter of the party, even he did not foresee the General Election would produce a Cabinet with five Lib Dem members. Here, he gives an exclusive behind-the-scenes account of the first televised leaders' debate that started the bandwagon which ended with Nick Clegg named as Deputy Prime Minister

I was standing in the shadows watching history being made

POLITICAL BROADCAST: Nick Clegg during the first TV debate in Manchester

THE night of the first leaders' debate in Manchester was just about the most surreal of my life.

The debate itself took place in Granada Studios, a few hundred yards down the road from the plush surroundings of the Hilton Hotel – home to 'Spin Alley' – which is where I spent the evening.

This was a vast, high-ceilinged, wood-panelled chamber with a huge cinema screen at one end, in front of two dozen rows of desks where the hundred-odd hacks from national and international newspapers and broadcasters tapped away ferociously at their laptops.

At the back of the room scaffolding was set up for the BBC, ITV and Sky News to broadcast from, and space for the reporters to hobnob with politicians and spin doctors while TV and radio producers scuttled around.

I was there as part of the Lib Dem team, my main task being to negotiate my way round the room with the now Energy and Climate Change Secretary Chris Huhne, mingling with the journos, making sure he was in the right place for the Newsnights, Skys and 5 Lives, and discussing the night's star turn by Nick Clegg.

We watched the debate on a flat-screen TV in our private green room behind the main chamber, alongside Paddy Ashdown, Vince Cable, Danny Alexander and colleagues from the press office, chewing tiny egg and cress sandwiches and processed ham wraps.

To be honest, it was hard to keep any real sense of perspective as the debate went on.

There was much pacing around and whispering into ears, as well as the odd cheer and applause when Nick came out with a great line or a well-made argument.

As it went on, we all had the sense that Nick was doing well – we were watching the ITV 'worm', the online polls and the reaction on Twitter – but what did people watching at home think?

Nick, despite all the plaudits that came his way following his performance, started with a huge disadvantage.

The Liberal Democrats, to put it bluntly, didn't have the luxury of being able to import expensive advisers from the Obama campaign, or any other, as Labour and the Tories did.

Nick's preparation, in which I played only a minor part, was carried out very much in-house and from scratch.

But it seemed to work. As the debate drew to a close, we prepared to head back to Spin Alley to put our side of events across to the journalists and broadcasters in the hope it would be reflected in the instant coverage and the following morning's papers.

The room, which had been crowded, but relatively quiet before the debate, was now a full-blown media circus.

Everywhere you looked there were secretaries of state, Alastair Campbells and Charlie Whelans, George Osbornes and William Hagues, surrounded by crowds half-a-dozen deep of cameramen and hacks scribbling away in shorthand and shouting their questions.

We were surrounded as we entered and it was clear from the first questions that people had seen the debate the same way we had. Nick Clegg had won, and won convincingly.

This was reinforced as the first instant polls flooded in, which spread through the room in a mass game of Chinese whispers.

All of a sudden Peter Mandelson wafted into the room.

I was several feet away with my back to him, but I noticed all the journalists in my peripheral vision scurrying in the same direction. A huge huddle enveloped him – all camera lenses, raised hands and shrieked fragments of questions.

For a few minutes he held them all rapt as he repeated his pre-prepared line – that Nick had won on style, but Brown on substance – and then he wafted away again as quickly as he had arrived.

As the mêlée continued I found myself barged by Cabinet ministers, glared at by opposition spin doctors, gossiping with BBC correspondents and shooting the breeze with Theresa May's aide as we waited for our charges to finish debating on Newsnight.

Soon enough the print journalists wrapped up, their copy filed, and headed, presumably, for the various hotels and bars of central Manchester.

The broadcasters continued their work for another hour or two, but slowly the number of people milling around behind them dwindled and everyone went their separate ways.

It was all quite a lot to take in.

For two years leading up to this point my job had been to fight for every scrap of coverage possible for the Lib Dems in newspapers and on television.

The media is used to seeing everything as a tug of war between Labour and the Tories, especially with the prospect of a close election and a change of government looming, so airtime and column inches were hard to come by.

'As we packed away our laptops in the green room afterwards Paddy Ashdown came in to congratulate us. But he also sounded a note of caution, warning us that Nick's success would make him a target as never before'

In an hour and a half of prime-time television all that changed, and as the evening progressed that fact slowly dawned on me.

As we packed away our laptops in the green room afterwards Paddy Ashdown came in to congratulate us all. But he also sounded a note of caution, warning us that Nick's success would make him a target as never before.

Despite this, my press office colleagues and I stumbled our way back to the nearby Premier Inn at around midnight, excitedly trying to read the next day's front pages on BlackBerries and iPhones.

WHAT happened in the days and weeks that followed – 'Cleggmania', the bizarre 'Clegg in Nazi Slur on Britain' headlines, the two debates, the press conferences, the round-the-clock campaigning, the journalists and photographers camped outside the office, election night and the disappointment that the surge subsided as people's pencils hovered over the ballot papers, the 'big, open and comprehensive offer', the days and nights of negotiations with the Conservatives and Labour, the coalition agreement, the announcement of Cabinet posts and last Sunday's special conference – all passed so quickly that right now it all seems one long blur.

I've barely had a full night's sleep since the campaign began, so it's hard to take stock of it all right now.

It has been the most full on, exhilarating and exhausting experience of my life.

Now, of course, comes the governing. I don't suppose it's going to get much easier.

LETTERS

KOS Media welcomes your comments and letters for publication. Please send correspondence to: Letters to the Editor, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SS. Alternatively fax them to: 01303 817001, or email them to editorial@kosmedia.co.uk. Please include your name and address, although these will be withheld in exceptional circumstances. Please also include a daytime telephone number for verification (this will not be published). We reserve the right to edit letters.

LETTER OF THE WEEK

Labour's record is not progressive

I used to be a member of the Labour Party and still wish to support progressive democracy. But, sadly, Labour Party members in Kent have no easy way back to power (Labour backing their own Dave, May 16).

Firstly, Labour governments have repeatedly failed to meet their stated aims. The recent Government, unnecessarily, left a legacy of increased inequality. The previous Labour administration, in the 1970s, also left serious economic problems, although with more excuse.

Secondly, Labour diverted resources from Kent to other parts of the UK, notably Scotland. Their national politicians are unlikely to change this attitude towards Kent, particularly given the current hung parliament.

Thirdly, Labour's organisation is hopeless. They have lost large numbers of councillors and party activists in Kent.

The party's democratic structures, such as the annual conference, have been deliberately weakened. Their leadership nationally is increasingly drawn from a Westminster clique, of which David and Ed Miliband are core members.

Fourthly, and perhaps most importantly, Labour has acquired a poor reputation for truthfulness, notably over Iraq. They cannot present new policies effectively if people don't believe what they say.

In the short term, Labour may recover by recruiting Liberal Democrat activists disillusioned with the coalition Government.

But how is such opportunism any improvement on Cameron and Clegg?

Labour had three new chances after long periods in the political wilderness in 1945, 1964 and 1997.

A fourth such chance is one too many. And the Liberals (Lib Dems) ran out of deserved chances long ago, as 20th century voters realised.

Kentish voters need a new democratic grouping, free from Labour and Liberal baggage, although I do not yet see what this answer should be.

Frederic Stansfield, Canterbury

OPINION: INTERESTING TIMES INDEED

Lib Dem councillor and Maidstone and the Weald parliamentary candidate **PETER CARROLL** on adjusting to the coalition's new political compass

WHOEVER said: 'May you live in interesting times' must be feeling pretty chuffed right now.

The General Election started off tamely enough, but the televised debates ignited public interest. Add to that the hung parliament and the frenzy of post-election negotiations and you had enough material for a host of political TV dramas.

I myself have fought the Conservative Party across Kent for over 15 years. I have taken on their one-time leader Michael Howard and fought Maidstone and the Weald in this election. Challenging the Tories has been almost a way of life. How odd it seems now to see my leader and his team not just supporting the Tories in Parliament, but in full coalition. It is taking me some days to come to terms with this outcome. On reflection, I have no doubt Nick Clegg called it right. To have tried to form an alliance with Labour would have caused widespread dismay. I sincerely believe history will show Gordon Brown had his good points.

He played a significant role in averting financial collapse at the height of the economic crisis. However, being Prime Minister is about being the leader, the frontman and inspirational communicator. To me, he always looked ill at ease in the public side of the role.

Having met him at the successful outcome of the Gurkha Justice campaign, I caught a glimpse of the private man who has been revealed since he stepped away from high office. In private, he is warm, charming and even humorous.

Supporting a widely disliked Prime Minister with the parliamentary arithmetic against the situation would have earned Nick Clegg and our wider party few friends.

To have stepped aside and allowed the Conservatives to have formed a minority Government with all the attendant risks that it might fail at a crucial moment would have in some sense have been easier, from an instinctive point of view. Perhaps Nick Clegg could have given an assurance to let the Queen's Speech and the Budget pass. Even so, such an arrangement would have left the country politically unstable at a time of great economic threat.

In forming the coalition, Nick Clegg and his team have secured the enactment of many core Lib Dem policies, particularly on lifting many people out of income tax and banking reform.

All that said, I find myself feeling like you do when you wake up from dozing on a bus – suddenly you are awake, but not quite sure where you are. Former Lib Dem leader Charles Kennedy expressed it as one's "political compass being disturbed".

This economic crisis was not caused by working people. It was caused by unscrupulous bankers and financiers aided and abetted by politicians who failed to supervise their antics.

It is my fervent hope that as the coalition starts to tackle the deficit, it does so in a way that hurts workers and families as little as possible. The bankers who caused this unholy mess should play their full part in putting it right.

To add insult to injury, some in the City are complaining that increased supervision and/or increased taxes might drive the bankers abroad. If I had my way, I'd buy them a Ryanair ticket to speed their passage – and it wouldn't be a return.

I hope Nick Clegg and his colleagues can bring their influence to bear in the new Government so the burden of recovery is spread fairly and proportionately. I hope they can further promote an economy that actually makes things people need, rather than being reliant on the gambling and financial mirage tactics of those in the City.

Lastly, I hope both the Conservatives and Lib Dems in Parliament deliver political reform. You only have to look at the election results across Kent to see how many voices are going unheard.

Yes, by any measure the Conservatives did well. Every parliamentary seat in Kent is now blue. About 360,000 people voted blue – but 160,000 voted Lib Dem, with a similar number voting Labour.

Can it really be right in this modern era, an era of change, that all those Lib Dem and Labour voters have no representation in Westminster?

KOS media COMMENT

What cost is the compromise, Nick?

WITH formerly bitter rivals smoothing over cracks with compromise and rethought policies, the Con-Lib coalition is highlighting a shift in politics.

But while leaders put on a united front, Lib Dem members, who fought tirelessly and then lost their election campaigns in Kent, are questioning the party they have for so-long supported. Not just because their leader has teamed up with a party as different from them as chalk is to cheese, but that some of their ideologies have been buried in return for a bit of power at the top.

Take nuclear energy, where new Lib Dem energy and climate change secretary Chris Huhne may have to oversee a generation of nuclear power despite his party being opposed pre-coalition.

In just over ten days, 12,000 people have joined up to Labour and although not all of these are disillusioned Lib Dems, a high number of them are.

On a local level, the word is while most members will stay loyal to their party, many are deeply unhappy. But at least with the coalition, Kent's Lib Dems may have found a voice in Parliament – albeit a quiet one.

Film legend is not in picture this time

DURING more than 40 years in Hollywood, legendary director Martin Scorsese has earned a reputation for being behind some of the greatest movies ever created.

Goodfellas, Raging Bull and Taxi Driver are all the work of the 67-year-old New Yorker, who is also the founder of the World Cinema Foundation and a recipient of the American Film Institute's lifetime achievement award.

Yet despite his successes, he was forced to play second fiddle recently to Dartford resident David Atkinson – the recipient of Focal's own lifetime achievement prize.

But judging by the gangland nature of some of Scorsese's biggest hits, Mr Atkinson may want to avoid upstaging his more famous peer in future.

Principles lost to a whiff of power

While I agree with Peter Carroll's call for proportional representation rather than the archaic and undemocratic system we currently suffer under, it was a real shame the Liberal Democrats agreed to have a national referendum on a new voting system that is not proportional.

Sadly, the Lib Dems seem to have thrown out their key policy of PR for the chance of power.

The Con-Dem coalition is one many Lib Dem voters, especially those in Maidstone who voted for Mr Carroll to simply stop the Conservatives, will find hard to accept.

Of course, when you scratch the surface of Lib Dem economic policy you find just how close it is to Conservative policy, so it is perhaps of little surprise that they got together so easily.

Fortunately there is a growing force in politics, one that is principled, truly green and committed to social justice. The Green Party now has its first MP and has established its place as a real alternative to business-as-usual politics.

Stuart Jeffery, campaigns officer, Kent Green Party, Maidstone

We can make use of spare vouchers

Tesco for Schools and Clubs and Sainsbury's Active Kids promotions are coming to an end, so please check your pockets, bags and down the sofa for any lost vouchers.

The Quest School, a registered charity for children with autism, will gladly make use of the vouchers you may have been collecting over the last few months.

Be be quick, the vouchers need to be sent off soon.

If you are able to help, please send them to Alyson Smith, The Quest School, The Old Stables, Church Farm, Church Road, Offham, West Malling ME19 5NX.

Thank you all for your support.

Alyson Smith, fundraising manager, The Quest School

Very rough ride if fun park fails

I have to accept – because I was almost alone in speaking against Thanet District Council's Conservative cabinet's plan for Dreamland – that I may be wrong.

However, there are many risks involved in what is planned, and many councillors prepared to say privately that they question the concept but keep silent for fear of appearing disloyal to Margate's regeneration. What is planned is the restoration of the Scenic Railway and cinema and the restoration of 1930s and '50s rides collected from around the country.

While the sorry state that the Conservatives have reduced Margate seafront to means that almost any development is better than none, I question why a collection of old rides, disposed of elsewhere, should be an economic success.

If this was a private sector project, I would suspend disbelief and wish it well. Instead, every effort to involve private money has failed. Even the carrot of offering half the Dreamland site for a housing development looks unlikely to generate any funds towards the project beyond the land value.

Instead, Thanet taxpayers are to shoulder all the risks, £2m initially, and another £2m to be borrowed to complete the project. This is required to supplement large grants from Government (the Sea Change project) and the Hertiage Lottery (yet to be secured).

In my comments on Thanet council's recent budget propsals, I have been critical of the failure to gain control of staff costs and the reduction of financial reserves to a critical point. We are now entering very uncertain times for local government finance, with many Thanet council staff facing redundancy notices even before the expected cuts in budgets.

This proposal, to borrow yet more money, completely exhausts the council's credit. All other projects, will have to be abandoned. While I share the desire to see the Dreamland site contribute to Margate's regeneration, this is not the way.

Cllr David Green, Ramsgate

Fond memories of Tonibell heyday

I am looking for people or those who had family who used to work on the Tonibell ice-cream vans out of the factory in Gravesend, up until its closure in the mid 1980s.

My late father, Terry Rich, used to operate out of the yard and was well known back in those days.

I have a small fleet of ice-cream vans and have kept the original livery and stickers. There is also a book to be published about the Tonibell ice-cream vans and just how big they were. Unfortunately, there is no information available online or at Gravesend library, so it's hard to get help.

I'm hoping summer may trigger happy memories of Tonibell and inspire anyone with pictures of the bright pink vans or the factory to get in touch.

Visit www.tonibell99.co.uk or you can email me at tonibell99@btinternet.com.

Gary Rich, by email

CONTINUED ON PAGE 23

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND DEATHS

Including family announcements in partnership with the Kent registration service

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For advertising announcement enquiries telephone Kent on Sunday on 01303 817150

BIRTHS

GRANTHAM-STEVENS
Connor William Grantham-Stevens, born on the 3rd May 2010 to Kylie and Will, brother to Oli and Thomas.

STRABLE
Kathy West and Richard Strable celebrate the birth of their son Drew Howard Strable on 30th April 2010.

POWELL
Samantha would like to announce the birth of Alfie Michael Powell, born on the 8th May 2010 at the Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother Hospital, Margate. A much loved son and grandson.

WILLS
Carly and John Wills celebrate the birth of their son Barney Edward Wills on the 8th May 2010, weighing 7lb 1oz.

MORLHAM
Claire and Jon are pleased to announce the safe arrival of Dylan Lloyd Morlham on the 14th April 2010.

DEATHS

BROOKE
Alfred Leonard, known by family and friends as Len, from Northfleet, passed away peacefully at home on 10th May 2010, aged 89 years. Will be greatly missed by all of his family and friends.

HITCHIN
Dick Hitchin passed away on the 8th May 2010. Much loved husband, Dad, Grandad and Great Grandad. Forever in our hearts. Service to be held at Thanet Crematorium on Thursday 27th May 2010 at 12:40pm.

ROWE
John Rowe, otherwise known as Dave, of Canterbury passed away peacefully on the 9th May 2010 after a long illness, aged 73 years. He will be sadly missed by family and friends.

BOORMAN NEE PALMER
Anne Melanie Boorman of Canterbury, past teacher at Littlebourne School, slipped away peacefully at home on 15th May 2010. Donations if desired to Pilgrims Hospice Canterbury.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 23

Ewbank departure is music to artists' ears

I write as a musician – with many artistic contacts within the community – to respond to the shameful articles in the press concerning Nick Ewbank, former artistic director of the Creative Foundation in Folkestone, about his intention to "spread his wings" and move to "new creative projects".

I am delighted to hear of his departure, to allow someone with genuine commitment and common sense to take on the position.

I feel outraged that the Creative Foundation yet again plans to attract "international artists" to the Triennial next year, when we have so many talented artists (some with international reputations) who could play pivotal roles and who should be actively supported by the Creative Foundation, especially bearing in mind the wanton neglect of local artists over the last nine years.

I hope the Creative Foundation will now seek to involve individuals who have a proven track record of truly supporting local artists and community projects, such as Neville Pundole, Frank Hurshfield, Michael Stainer and Briony Kapoor, who could inject much-needed professionalism and fine creative vision into the organisation as a whole.

I sincerely hope Mr Ewbank's departure heralds a new era of blossoming creativity, especially for the many talented local artists who the Creative Foundation should unstintingly serve from now on.

Stephen Priestley, by email

There's no denying that he's persistent

In reply to Doug Cheverst's latest letter: firstly, it was not me who mentioned shipping deaths in Europe.

However, a quick internet search of 'European deaths from shipping emissions' shows, among others, that the claims may have originated from a report from the Energy Research Centre for the Netherlands which said: "Shipping emissions have been estimated to induce more than 60,000 premature deaths globally, of which about one third are in Europe (Corbett et al, 2007)".

I refer him and others to those links for a start, if they so wish.

As for so-called experts, the likes of Bishop Usher and whoever said rail travel caused death over 25mph cannot be regarded as in any way reliable guides to today's issues, as they were products of their time and influenced by their ignorance of fact and their fears.

Modern scientists are by the very nature of science sceptical and check their facts before publishing. Those who remain sceptical are free to challenge these and accept the hard evidence once presented by further research.

A denier, in this case of climate change, refuses to even accept the hard evidence.

A useful example of the nature of denial is in a very recent edition of New Scientist magazine.

Finally, I point out that a group of climate scientists at the US National Academy of Sciences published a letter in Science magazine last month which clearly refuted the climate deniers' case and maintained that the theory of global warming was, and is, as robust as the theory of evolution and Einstein's relativity theories, despite the obvious remaining uncertainties within them all.

So I leave all to pursue their own investigations to inform themselves of the facts.

Ray Duff, Folkestone

Population explosion is the real threat we face

"Soviet scientists conclude, as warm-water fish are increasing in numbers in the Arctic seas and rising temperatures are melting the ice caps, that the world is getting hotter. Russian explorers soon expect ships to sail right across the Pole."

No, this wasn't recently, this was at the end of 1938. After which, by 1947 the ice caps had reformed and Britain had one of the hardest winters ever. As they say, there is nothing new under the sun.

Philippe Buache, the 18th century geographer, produced a map, based on ancient sources, showing Antarctica with no ice on it at all. This being confirmed in 1958 by a seismic survey.

Good job they were too busy surviving in those days to form panic groups, using dubious data to frighten people into being controlled by others with personal agendas.

I agree with Doug Cheverst, Ray Duff has no interest in data other than that which supports what he wants to believe.

We can be sure whatever we see now, the world has been there before. Or worse.

The greatest fear at present, which the CO2 huggers ignore, is over-population and the sustained destruction of the world's resources.

Therein lies our demise and this needed urgent action long ago.

But when world leaders can't even agree what shaped table they will meet around, it doesn't inspire a lot of hope.

I'm surprised Ray Duff has time to write, what with changing the world to negate the need to destroy the rainforests, fitting solar panels, stopping China and India polluting and the many other tasks on his long list, which now includes capping the Yellowstone volcano.

You'll need a lot of cement for that, Mr Duff.

Phil Granger, West Malling

Put the kettle on and boost Marie Curie

As a long-time supporter of Marie Curie Cancer Care and a passionate cake-baker, may I ask your readers to join the charity's Blooming Great Tea Party celebrations this summer?

We're inviting people to hold their own tea parties any time between June 12 and July 12 to help raise money for the charity.

Whether it's a garden party, afternoon tea or a simple gathering of friends for a cuppa, holding a Blooming Great Tea Party couldn't be simpler.

Every tea party, however big or small will help more Marie Curie nurses to provide free care for terminally ill people in their own homes or at one of the charity's hospices.

I do hope you are able to help us. To sign up for a free Blooming Great Tea Party fundraising pack with ideas to help create the perfect party, call 08700 340 040 or visit www.mariecurie.org.uk/teaparty.

Jane Asher, Blooming Great Tea Party

Vegan cake challenge aims to end cruelty

If any readers are animal lovers who love baking, veggie group Viva! may have just the challenge for them.

We are organising a massive nationwide fundraising Vegan Cake Bake – from Monday, July 26, to Sunday, August 1 – and are looking for keen cooks to take part.

Funds are for our campaign: Factory Farming – It's Gotta Go, which exposes the true horror and lack of humanity involved in the way most animals are reared in the UK.

Viva! is funded entirely by donations and is the only campaigning-based vegetarian and vegan organisation in the UK.

If you support our aims to end cruelty to farmed animals and help the world become a kinder place, please join the Vegan Cake Bake.

We have a range of free, delicious vegan cake recipes which are available by visiting www.viva.org.uk/fundraisingcakebake or by calling 0117 944 1000, including carrot cake, lemon slices, vanilla sponge, chocolate berry cake, chocolate chip cookies and muffins.

Then all you have to decide is where you are going to sell your cakes.

Email me, Helen Rossiter (helen@viva.org.uk), for more information, or call the number above. Happy baking.

Helen Rossiter, Viva! cookery writer

Fruity Friday getting the message across

We want to thank schools, companies and everyone in the area who took part in this year's Fruity Friday campaign.

The campaign was a big success, with more people taking part than ever before.

Fruity Friday is an annual fundraising and awareness campaign held by the World Cancer Research Fund (WCRF) to encourage people to incorporate more fruit and vegetables into their diet.

Scientists estimate that a third of the most common cancers could be prevented by following a healthy diet, which includes lots of fruits and vegetables, being physically active and maintaining a healthy weight.

To find out more, visit www.wcrf-uk.org.

Natalie Tarrant, events manager, World Cancer Research Fund

Your chance to make a world of difference

The Vodafone Foundation's 2010 World of Difference International programme has just launched, giving eight UK-based people the chance to make a difference by being paid to work for a UK or Channel Islands charity overseas for a year.

Statistics show that over a third of us would like to get involved in more charity work, but many don't know where to start.

The World of Difference International programme is open to anyone over the age of 18 with passion, drive and commitment.

Applicants can work for a charity of their choice, as long as that work takes them to overseas and their chosen charity is registered in the UK.

The eight individuals who are prepared to make a difference and grab a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity will receive up to £25,000 towards their outgoings, plus £20,000 in expenses for costs directly associated with their placement from the Vodafone Foundation.

For those who aren't sure what charities might need help, vodafone.co.uk/worldofdifference has a charity matchmaker tool that matches interests with opportunities.

Anyone interested has until midnight on June 17 to apply on the website, with placements starting from this autumn.

Our site also contains updates from eight winners who were last year chosen from over 1,000 applicants and are currently working overseas for their chosen charities.

I hope individuals in Kent will take up this unique opportunity to make a world of difference.

Andrew Dunnett, director, Vodafone Foundation

Our specialist nurses deserve protection

There will be many among your readership who, having been diagnosed with cancer, have benefited from the support offered to them by clinical nurse specialists (CNS).

We know the NHS is looking to make savings, yet during the election campaign the Conservative and Liberal Democrat parties both stated the importance of nursing support for people with cancer.

As a coalition of charities that represents over half of the people diagnosed with cancer in the UK, and the people who care for them, we are calling on David Cameron to safeguard these vital roles.

The role of the CNS is critical to the wellbeing of patients, greatly improving their experience of treatment and aftercare by giving them the support and information they need, when they need it.

Research also shows that specialist nurses save the NHS money by ensuring patients receive the most appropriate care, reducing hospital admissions and bed days.

If the NHS is to be more cost effective, then more not less needs to be spent on these valued and valuable nurses.

Deborah Alsina, chief executive, Bowel Cancer UK; Dr Rosemary Gillespie, chief executive, Roy Castle Lung Cancer Foundation; Pamela Goldberg, chief executive, Breast Cancer Campaign; Jeremy Hughes, chief executive, Breakthrough Breast Cancer; John Neate, chief executive, The Prostate Cancer Charity; Samia al Qadhi, chief executive, Breast Cancer Care, London

Raising awareness of ME sufferers' needs

May is ME.Awareness Month and, satisfied or not with the General Election outcome, your readers may wish to know that Thanet North MP Roger Gale very kindly took the time to acknowledge and respond to our manifesto for ME (myalgic encephalomyelitis) in the run up to polling day. We have posted his response on our website, www.afme.org.uk.

We hope Mr Gale will remember the needs of vulnerable people with ME and other chronic health problems, now the votes have been cast and the new Government starts looking at cut-backs.

Sir Peter Spencer, chief executive, Action for ME

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do you foster?

FOSTER CARE FORTNIGHT

MAY 17-30, 2010

A challenging career that will enrich your life forever

By **CHRIS MURPHY**

MOST people have heard about fostering, but the industry is aiming at raising its profile even further to cope with demand.

Organisations like Kent County Council are supplemented by specialist agencies across the county and they want to increase awareness of the valuable work they do.

Daniel Croft, manager of Moments Fostering Agency in Canterbury, is one of many around Kent who thinks the service needs to do more educate the public.

He told KOS Media: "To raise profile of fostering and highlight the need for more foster carers is straightforward.

"I like to sum up foster carers as 'ordinary people doing extraordinary things'.

"After all, foster carers are everyday people that push their limits and make a huge difference to a child's life.

"That difference is carried into their adult life and the children today are the future teachers, doctors, foster carers, peacekeepers, so without sounding too lyrical, children are the future.

"There's no better qualification in the world than life experience. Full training is given and on going throughout a foster carer's career.

"These will include first aid training, record keeping and behaviour management courses.

"Are you an experienced foster carer, or are you just thinking of fostering as a new career?

"Moments is interested in working with people who want to make a real difference to children and young people in care by providing a supportive, nurturing and stable home environment."

Rewarding

KCC managing director for children, families and education, Rosalind Turner, said: "Foster carers are changing lives day in, day out and we owe them a debt of gratitude.

"Foster Care Fortnight is an excellent opportunity to give thanks and celebrate their work.

"It is also a chance for people to find out about the profession and consider whether it would be right for them.

"Foster care is a very challenging, but rewarding career. It is no different to family life – there will be ups and downs, but for the right people it will enrich their lives and the lives of the children they care for."

She said becoming a foster parent can deliver a decent life for some lucky youngsters, but the industry is short of applicants.

Mrs Turner added: "If becoming a foster carer is something you have considered, why not take the opportunity to find out more?

"Our team is available on the phone to offer advice and guidance and we host information evenings where you can meet other carers. There are also details on the KCC website.

"The application process is thorough, as you would expect, but there is support throughout. If you decide to go ahead and are accepted, there is an in-depth induction programme.

"All our foster carers are professionals and have on-going training to develop their skills.

"So if you're looking for a different career that really makes a difference, look no further than fostering."

KCC is looking for at least 120 people to join its ranks.

For more information phone Kent County Council fostering team on 0845 330 2968 or visit www.kent.gov.uk/fostering.

Foster Care Fortnight
17 - 30 May

Kent County Council Fostering Service
wants to recruit local foster carers for children and young people.

As a local foster carer, you will care for children and young people allowing them to remain in their own community; attend the same school and maintain links with their family and friends.

We need a variety of foster carers to meet their different needs and help them through a range of difficulties. We provide support and training commended by Ofsted. Applications are welcome from all sections of the community with a diversity of experiences.

We provide a number of different foster placements for children and young people and we have a number of successful fostering schemes to meet the specific needs of children who have complex difficulties. These include:

- Therapeutic Re-parenting for children aged 4 -13 years.
- Treatment Foster Care for young people aged 11-16 years.
- Short Breaks to provide regular breaks for disabled children.
- Short and Long Term Foster Care for children and young people of all ages.

We particularly need foster carers for adolescents and siblings.

To find out more about fostering with Kent County Council contact our Initial Enquiries Team on 0845 330 2968 or visit our website www.kent.gov.uk/fostering

County council looking for 120 new fosterers to offer a loving home

HELP: Leyland Ridings is raising awareness

FOSTER carers from across Kent County Council have spoken about the benefits of looking after children and teenagers.

KCC has 700 foster carers, but is looking for another 120 and is raising awareness about the benefits of fostering during Foster Care Fortnight, May 17-28.

Cllr Leyland Ridings, deputy cabinet member for children, families and education at KCC said: "Foster carers can be from all walks of life, single, married or living with a partner, either with or without children.

"They need to have a real interest in helping children and be able to offer a child a stable, secure life in a loving family.

"Everyday in Kent hundreds of children and young people receive the care and attention they need from foster carers.

"With this children in care have the chance to enjoy life and reach their potential, often after a difficult start in life.

"Generally the purpose of fostering is to help children remain with or return to their own family, but sometimes the purpose is to prepare them for a new adoptive family.

"We need a diverse range of people with different skills and qualities so more children are placed in the right home, first time."

KCC Fostering Service provides a number of different foster placements for children and young people and we have a number of successful fostering schemes to meet the specific needs of children who have complex difficulties. These include:

- therapeutic re-parenting for children aged four-13 years
- treatment foster care for young people aged 11-16 years
- short breaks to provide regular breaks for disabled children.
- short and long-term foster care for children and young people of all ages.

KCC Fostering Service offers a range of benefits including financial rewards and comprehensive training, along with supervision and professional support.

KCC would like to hear from people in Kent who have a spare bedroom and are able to offer a home to children and young people.

If you would like to find out more, contact the initial enquiries team on 0845 330 2968 or visit www.kent.gov.uk/fostering.

CASE STUDIES

■ MUM-OF-one Denise Ilott, from Tonbridge, has been fostering for six years.

She said: "We had been thinking about fostering for a while, but we had a friend who was a foster carer and encouraged us into doing it.

"It is very rewarding when you see the children you are caring for shine and develop.

"You are a fostering family not just one foster carer and it was very important we included our son. I think it has developed him as a person."

■ JULIE Mead from Cliftonville a therapeutic re-parenting specialist, has been a foster carer for 27 years.

She said: "There are lots of different specialist schemes within fostering.

"I am now doing the therapeutic re-parenting fostering scheme. You work as part of a team in a network that includes a psychologist, education, mental health, the child's social worker and any other professional involved with the child.

"The child has usually been through many placement breakdowns and they have attachment disorders of different kinds. It is a two-year, perhaps longer, commitment for that child.

"It is very rewarding to see a child improve in all areas of their life – at home and at school."

■ GARY Carter, from Whitstable, has been fostering for a year.

He said: "It has been hard work, but very rewarding. When I first went into fostering I just thought you need to provide a bed and a warm meal and they would be fine, but there is a lot more love and care involved and a lot of finding yourself as well.

"From the time we were approved it took just over a month before our first placement arrived.

"It is learning on the job a lot, but there is a lot of training. You think you know everything there is to know about looking after children, but as every course goes by it adds more to the jigsaw."

■ BECKY Doorey, from Ashford, has been a foster carer for nearly five years.

She said: "I wanted to make a difference. I was working in a job I didn't particularly like and thought about what I wanted to do. I wanted to work with children and help improve their lives.

"Fostering was something I had toyed with for a very long time, but I never thought I would be what a foster carer was needed to be, so I held back quite a while. But since then I haven't looked back.

"I really enjoy doing it – caring for children and getting the chance to make a difference in their lives. I have been able to do lots of training, I have professional qualifications now.

"I am really enjoying making a difference."

■ JANET and Malcolm Hines, from Folkestone, said: "We became treatment foster carers, through coming onto the programme with a young person who was displaying complex needs.

"Due to the attachment we had we all came over together and the programme was a success for this young person.

"Once this young person moved on, we stayed with TFC because we found the programme meets the young people's needs, there is a lot of support for the young people and ourselves as foster carers."

■ FOLKESTONE'S Dave Ashford has been a foster carer for 10 years.

He said: "I now mainly look after disabled children. In a previous life I was a carpenter and joiner, but I had some problems with my back, which meant I had to stop that job.

"We toyed with fostering, both my wife and myself, and I decided to try and become foster carer. We have had about 100 children – the way I describe it is that my daughter has had about 100 brothers and sisters.

"This is what I do and I thoroughly enjoy it. Sometimes I get a bit upset when some of those children move on."

■ MARY Howse, from Staplehurst, has been a short breaks foster carer for three years.

She said: "Short breaks foster care is where disabled children come and stay with you for a specified number of days, which means their parents can have a break.

"Both myself and my husband Bob had been foster caring before moving into the short breaks scheme. I see it being really positive as it can relieve the pressure of home life."

■ DAD-of-two Justin Dummigan, from Ramsgate, has been fostering for six years.

He said: "My parents fostered when I was a child. When I met my wife it was more a case of when we fostered, rather than if. We took the approach to foster while our children were young so they have always grown up with it and so far it has worked well.

"I was 12 when my mum and dad started to foster. I can remember it being hard because I was used to my own space, but I got used to it. There are lots of different aspects to fostering, you have to be quite flexible.

"There can be times when it is difficult, but the positives far outweigh the negatives. There is a lot of support and training available."

Caring for a child who really needs someone that cares

MANY people try to make a difference to the world we live in.

Some do charity work, some go into the world of medicine, and some become foster parents, looking after children who through no fault of their own suddenly find they need someone to take them under their wing.

The reasons are myriad, but there is always one common thread – a requirement to be in the care of someone who really does care.

So what do you need to become a foster parent, apart from a loving nature?

Well, you need to be over 25, single, married, or just living as a couple and have at least one spare bedroom.

Of course, you need to always be available to the child and have the ability to learn and rise to the challenge of fostering.

You will must commit to a continuous training and development programme and have a strong supportive family and friends network.

The range of ages needing to be fostered can run from new born to 18-years-old, and can include children with physical disabilities, those with autistic spectrum disorders, and young people seeking asylum.

One woman, we are just calling Jill, knows how rewarding it can be.

The 43-year-old has been a foster carer for 13 years and is registered to take care of three children under 10-years-old. She lives in Medway with her husband and they also have three children of their own.

Traumatised

Jill said: "Fostering has been a very exciting job and the transformation you can make to a vulnerable child's life is very rewarding.

"You do need good observation and recording skills, as well as a lot of empathy for the child.

"You also need to see past the quiet child sitting playing, that everyone says 'they are so good' – and see the traumatised child with all the worries in the world, but unable to speak about them.

"It has not been the easiest job and is definitely not 9-5, but these are the lives that will be the future and they just need steering along the right track. For many of the children, just coming into an organised home with a routine is completely alien for them.

"Much like if you woke up one morning in a different part of the world where people spoke differently and ate differently, how would you cope?"

And Justin Dummigan, from Thanet, who has been fostering for six years, added: "My parents fostered when I was a child and when I met my wife and had a family of my own it was more a case of when we foster, as opposed to if we foster.

"Growing up in a family that fostered had a positive impact on me. It made me grow as a person and gave me the skills I need to be a carer.

"That said, there's lots and lots of training available. The training diary is always packed. There's training to cover all aspects of fostering – every placement is different.

"There is lots of support available for potential new carers as well."

Have you considered becoming a foster carer?

Next Step Fostering is looking for people with the commitment, compassion and strength of character to foster children as a full-time career.

As an Ofsted outstanding foster care provider, we offer a competitive rate of pay along with the highest levels of training and support possible.

So, if you have a spare room in your home and think you (or someone you know) can commit to working as a professional foster carer, please contact us.

Change your career, change a life.

Call 01634 838666 or visit www.nextstepfostering.org

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next step fostering

UK's 10,000 shortage in foster carers

IN SPITE of the financial incentives and the emotional satisfaction that being a foster parent can bestow on a person, there remains a shortage in Kent and the UK, ***writes Chris Murphy***.

It is estimated another 10,000 foster carers are needed across the UK. Demand has never been higher and adverts appealing for members of the public to consider it as an option are all over the place.

Daniel Croft, manager of Moments Fostering Agency in Canterbury said: "Unfortunately, there is a shortage of foster carers in the UK. Just over 10,000 new carers are needed immediately.

"More carers means the more likely it is that a good match can be found for a child, in terms of location, culture, language, religion, background, lifestyle and even interests.

"It's about finding a foster home for a child that feels familiar to them; where they can feel comfortable whether they are there for two weeks, two months or two years."

And there is no doubt about the benefits.

Vince and Helen Harpum, both 43 from Medway, have been foster carers for six years.

The couple have four children of their own, and are currently fostering an eight-year-old child on a long-term placement until they are 18.

After being made redundant last summer, Vincent is currently undertaking an NVQ3 in children and families, as he has become increasingly committed to fostering, as well as helping out with transport for children and occasional respite day care.

Humbled

Helen, a primary school teacher, said: "When we first considered becoming foster carers we probably hoped we would be able to share our life experiences and family's way of life with a child or young person and that they would benefit from this, and we hope this has happened for all of those we have cared for.

"We probably anticipated that our own values and lifestyle would help show children and young people that there are certain rules and expectations needed in life and we hope that this has been the case.

"However, while we have risen to the challenges, we have also been humbled by the experiences.

"We have bigger hearts and more open minds as a result.

"Over the years as our ever-changing 'family' has altered in number, personality and age range, we have made new friends, learnt new skills, developed ourselves, too.

"Our lives have been touched by all of those we have fostered and their own families, that we have had the privilege to share with.

"As foster carers we have seen children develop, mature and become confident, happy and healthy young people.

"We have seen broken families reconciled, or new families created and all of this has been reward enough for us.

"We never expected the bonus of how much of an effect that fostering would have on changing our own lives, too – for the better of course."

Medway Council's director of children and adult services Rose Collinson said: "Foster carers do a fantastic and selfless job for children. Every child deserves the best possible start in life and our foster carers are making such a difference to the lives of children and young people in Medway.

"We are lucky to have some wonderful foster carers in Medway, but there are still many other young people who desperately need the stability, security and comfort of a family, and I would encourage more people to get involved in what is a truly rewarding role and become a foster carer."

Foundation is at forefront of giving abused children path to a better life

WHEN Ben was a little boy and misbehaved, as all youngsters sometimes do, his mother and father locked him away in a cupboard.

When his parents went to the pub, he was locked away again. He never went out to play with other children – his world was the dark recesses of the cupboard.

Neglect and casual cruelty blighted Ben's early years, until local social workers stepped in and he was taken into care.

Happily, he was found a place at the Caldecott Foundation at Smeeth, near Ashford, which has been caring for vulnerable children for almost a century and is recognised as one of the leading centres of its type in Britain.

Ben stayed at Caldecott for two years. He lived in a warm and welcoming home, was given therapy to help him overcome his fears and anger – as he had no previous interaction with other children Ben often got into fights – and he studied for GCSEs at the Caldecott School.

It took two years of intensive therapy, nurture and care to stabilise Ben and help rebuild his life.

Today, he lives with foster parents which Caldecott found for him, a middle-aged couple with a grown-up family of their own, who have continued the work of helping him come to terms with his past.

Ben attends mainstream secondary school, is looking forward to his sixth form studies and perhaps going onto college.

He is a lively and intelligent individual who has developed a passion for how computers are built and work.

All the signs are good that this story, which had such a grim beginning, will have a happy outcome.

Now, Caldecott is looking for other foster carers to help troubled children like Ben.

Keith Nix, Caldecott's head of fostering, said: "We specialise in looking after children whose lives have been traumatised by abuse and neglect and we need to find very special foster carers in Kent."

The fostering service was initially set up to provide a pathway to family living for some of the children who had lived at Caldecott for some time.

However, the organisation is increasingly receiving enquiries from local authorities throughout the UK to find foster homes for other children who have come from deprived backgrounds.

"As a result, we are widening our search for carers", said Keith, "and we know there are people in Kent who could provide just the sort of loving homes that these children need."

Not surprisingly many children who have suffered extreme trauma and disruption in their lives have challenging patterns of behaviour and complex emotional needs.

"The foster carers we are looking for will be totally committed, have patience and a sense of humour", said Keith.

"Ideally, they will also have experience of working with children, even if that simply means having had children of their own.

"Each child has a need to feel valued and supported in a safe environment with clear boundaries and expectations. Helping them turn their lives around is an incredibly rewarding experience."

The Caldecott Foundation is also looking for carers to help parents of babies, particularly single young mothers, who are having difficulty coping.

"Some young mums struggle to bond with their babies, or need support in learning how to feed, bath or change a baby," said Keith.

"We need foster carers to bring them into their home, even for a short time, to help them develop these skills."

Experience

Caldecott offers a comprehensive package of support for their foster carers, tailored to the Government's Every Child Matters strategy, with benefits including intensive training, 24-hour on-call support and highly competitive rates of pay.

Crucially, carers will have the backing of an organisation which has almost a century of experience in looking after some of Britain's most neglected and deprived young people.

Potential carers requiring more information about fostering opportunities can contact Keith Nix, Erica Eversfield or Tracey Nixon on 01303 815648 or email fostering@caldecottfoundation.co.uk.

OFFERING HOPE: Keith Nix, is the head of fostering at the Caldecott Foundation

Skill and commitment essential ingredients for those wishing to join the fostering team

MEDWAY Council has worked hard to make fostering work.

We asked the authority what is expected of their foster parents.

The council said: "Being a foster carer involves caring for a child in your own home. This may be for a short period of a few months or for a longer time. In some instances, children and teenagers can need foster care through until they become young adults.

"Working with children and their families is a highly responsible and demanding job that requires a high level of relevant skill and commitment.

"The process of becoming a foster carer reflects these factors, which are endorsed through references, training and a detailed home assessment. Fostering will have an impact on all family members and persons within the home. They will be part of the assessment process to varying degrees.

"Subject to approval, each registered foster carer is allocated a named fostering social worker, who supervises them and their family in caring for the child.

"Foster carers must be able to react and respond to a wide variety of situations and circumstances.

"Patience, understanding, good communication and commitment are fundamental skills required to enable a child or teenager come to terms with their own personal experiences. Such skills are also required to help carers understand and manage child behaviour.

"An essential skill of being a foster carer is a willingness to work with the child's family.

"Carers must be flexible and able to respond to different issues and also have the ability to carry forward the identified tasks established in the child's care plan.

"Other aspects of the work require foster carers to represent a child at meetings and reviews, promote contact between the child and his or her own family, and contribute to the assessment of the child's needs.

"As a foster carer you will be involved as a member of a team, all of whom work to meet the needs of the child.

"There are many different types of fostering, varying in length of stay and the needs of the child or young person. Priority is given to those people who come forward to respond to an individual child's needs or who are able to offer a particular range of care depending on the child's age, such as children up to 10-years-old, five to 16-years-old, or over 11-years-old."

And the council needs to boost numbers. It said currently Medway Council's Fostering Team needs foster carers for several groups.

These include short-term fostering, for children up to 10-years-old and brothers and sisters who wish to stay together; teenage fostering, for young people between 11 and 16-years-old; long-term fostering, for named children who need a permanent home; special needs fostering, for children with a disability or learning difficulty; mother and baby, for young mothers or families who need an assessment of their parenting abilities.

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Training, Courses & Careers

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College offers a country taster

A TASTER day is being held at Hadlow College, near Tonbridge, on Friday, June 4.

Courses on offer include agriculture, animal management, countryside management, fisheries management, floristry, equine studies and horticulture. Call 0500 551434 or email enquiries@hadlow.ac.uk.

Meanwhile, an open day is taking place at the same college on Saturday, June 19.

Prospective students will have the chance to meet current tutors, explore the campuses and learn more about the courses on offer.

The event runs from 11am until 4pm.

Speak the lingo on your holiday

BASIC foreign language courses are being held to help those planning to holiday abroad this year.

Run by Kent Adult Education, the courses are designed to give students enough knowledge to get by, as well as an insight into the cultures of the countries covered.

Both courses – entitled French for Your Holiday and Italian For Your Holiday – are being held at Associate House in Ashford.

If you are interested in either of the courses visit www.kent.gov.uk/adulted or call 0845 606 5606 for more information.

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Free scheme to get jobless back in employment

By **STEVE KNIGHT**
steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

JOBSEEKERS are being urged to sign up for a range of free courses designed to help them get back into employment.

The Work Focused Training Scheme is being delivered through MidKent College's business development unit as part of an agreement with the Jobcentre to help boost the local economy.

It is being targeted at adults aged over 19 who have been unemployed for between six and 12 months and referred to the college by their local Jobcentre.

A similar scheme had earlier led to more than 380 people learning valuable new skills.

Training consultant Carole Carter said: "Work Focused Training is a 10-day programme that helps clients gain skills in various areas, including warehousing, construction and advanced security operations.

"We delivered our first contract so well that we now have a further contract to train yet more clients with the aim of finding them work."

Certificates

MidKent College has been providing education and training in the county for more than 100 years.

Courses are run from one of three different campuses in Gillingham, Chatham and Maidstone.

Mrs Carter said: "Clients attend their chosen course either here at MidKent College or with our partners at Mainstream in Sittingbourne, and leave at the end of 10 days with qualifications that will have a positive impact on their employability.

"For example, if someone goes through our course in warehousing then they can come out with a fork-lift truck qualification and certificates in manual handling and stock control.

"With these certificates they can go forward to work straight away."

In addition to the Work Focused Training Scheme, the college has also launched the Young Person's Guarantee for young adults aged between 18 and 24 who are classified as Neets (not in education, employment or training).

Those eligible have a choice of two courses to help them find work, while a similar guarantee to non-Neets provides specific training to meet industry requirements.

Arts chancellor role for Rhodes

ICONIC fashion designer Zandra Rhodes has been officially installed as the first Chancellor of the University for the Creative Arts.

The Chatham-born talent created her own colourful robes for the inauguration ceremony, when she was installed by UCA chairman and former MasterChef host Loyd Grossman.

She said: "I will make it my utmost priority to ensure future generations of students continue to have the same positive and inspiring experiences as I did."

Rhodes studied at the Medway College of Design, one of UCA's founder institutions. Today the university has campuses in Canterbury, Maidstone and Rochester.

Pull out your Review section opposite to read JobsforKent.co.uk, starting on page 73

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If interested, please contact **Barbara Coker on 01303 817072**

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Heath Farm Foster Care, Education & Therapy

To support our continued growth and development we are seeking to recruit the following positions:

TEAM MANAGER (New Post)

£38,000 - £45,000 • Company Car Provided

We are seeking an experienced, highly motivated and forward thinking social worker to manage the social work team towards achieving best outcomes for children and young people through providing high levels of support to carers and effective coordination of Heath Farm services. Social Work Qualification and GSCC Registration essential.

ADMINISTRATOR (New Post)

£13,011

To support the social work team we are seeking an additional administrator. You will be responsible for the company database and provide back up support to reception. Experienced user of MS Office applications or similar required.

BENEFITS INCLUDE:

To the right candidates we can offer a range of benefits including excellent working conditions, private health care insurance, company pension scheme and access to regular supervision and professional development.

Closing date for both applications is Monday 7th June 2010
Interviews will take place w/c 14th June 2010

Heath Farm is an Equal Opportunities employer and operates a no smoking policy.

If you have the ability and qualities required and wish to join a successful and growing organisation where your skills will be appreciated, email wcameron@heathfarm.org for an application pack Tel: 01233 712030

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SUNDAY RECEPTIONIST

We're looking for a Sunday Receptionist to meet and greet customers coming into our busy Maidstone dealership. As the first point of contact you must be a well-presented individual with a professional manner. Basic administrative and telephone experience will be required as well as ad-hoc duties within the showroom.

To apply for these positions email your CV to Mark Wood, Dealer Principal: **mark.wood@whitehousegroup.co.uk**

Whitehouse Maidstone
1-17 The Broadway Maidstone, Kent ME16 8QX

To advertise in this section **01303 817040**

justonestep Thanet Works

Skills & Employability Coaches are required:

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Candidates should have experience in engaging and motivating disadvantaged and excluded groups and demonstrate a desire to pass on their skills and experience to clients. Previous experience of coaching/mentoring with this client group will be a distinct advantage.

Whilst it is beneficial for candidates to be working towards or to hold a recognised qualification in Information Advice and Guidance, teaching certificate, NVQ Assessor Award (A1) and Internal Verifier, Award (V1), Justonestep will provide training and support for the right candidate to achieve these qualifications if necessary.

Salary: £16k – £22k pro rata. Negotiable + benefits (Competitive depending on qualifications)

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Closing Date: 7th June

Start Date: End of June

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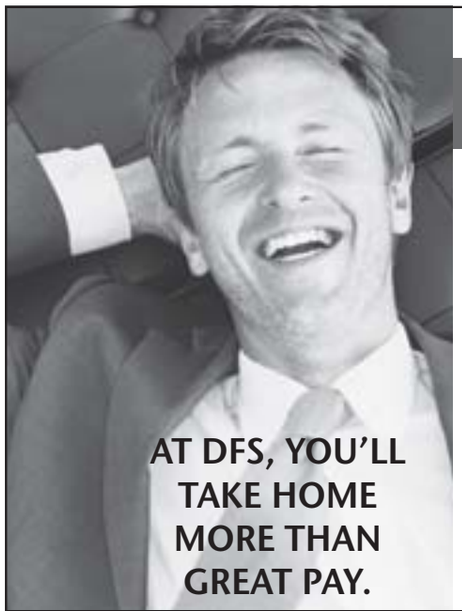
To apply for this role please contact **Julie Durant** on **07969 463 809** for an informal chat, or e-mail your CV with covering letter to julie@justonestep.co.uk



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Jenny Avery-Stevens, Physiotherapy Manager on 01843 235019

For job description and application form please contact:

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23. Any discount which KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd may have agreed with the Advertiser shall be forfeited in the event of failure by the Advertiser to complete the contract or to meet the above credit terms.
24. Advertising Agency commission will be allowed to those advertisers recognised by the Newspaper Society, but shall not exceed ten per cent and will be subject to the terms of that recognition. This commission will not be allowed if the Advertising Agency fails to meet the terms.
25. All private advertisements and certain categories as laid down by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd must be prepaid.
26. The Advertiser agrees to indemnify KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd in respect of all costs, damages or other charges falling upon the media owners or any of the companies within the KOS Media Group as the result of legal action or threatened legal action or threatened legal arising from the publication of any advertisement or advertising promotion.
27. An order for an advertisement shall amount to acceptance of these terms and conditions, and any condition placed on an order by an Advertiser shall be null and void in so far as it conflicts with them.
28. Copyright in advertisements produced wholly or partially by the media owners belong to KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd. Advertisers may not reproduce such advertisements without the media owner's written consent.

All terms and conditions stated above are in place to protect the advertiser, the media owner and the communities they serve within the public domain as well as the beneficial rights of individuals and organisations. KOS Media will endeavour to always act reasonably in applying its terms and conditions.

Effective from June 2008

Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR
Tel 01303 817040 Fax 01303 817004
Email: info@kosmedia.co.uk

KOS media

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THE SPENCER WING

The Spencer Wing is the independently owned and managed 22 bed private hospital situated on the QEQM Hospital site. We also have a 5 bed unit at the William Harvey Hospital in Ashford. The continuing growth of our business has resulted in a vacancy for the following staff:

Dual Trained Nurse (Margate) - 20 hrs per week

(Paediatric/Adult trained)

Pre-Assessment Nurse - 22.5 hrs (Margate)

Closing date for applications – 16 June 2010

To discuss these opportunities or to arrange an informal visit, please contact Vicky Smith or Mary Guarnieri - 01843 234555 Ext: 62207 for the Dual Trained Nurse Position or Deborah Wilson-Webb (Pre-Assessment Sister) on 01843 234555 Ext: 63917

For job description and application form please contact:

Jo Edwards
East Kent Medical Services Ltd
The Spencer Wing, QEQM Hospital, Ramsgate Road, Margate, Kent CT9 4BG
Telephone: 01843 234556
Fax: 01843 296333
E-mail: jo.edwards@thespencerwing.com

The Spencer Wing is an equal opportunity employer

This positions is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure check

INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

MidKent College

MidKent College based in the Medway Towns and Maidstone is seeking to appoint an outstanding individual in the following area:

Advanced Skills Lecturer in Civil Engineering
Ref: P0333

Salary: £40,512 per annum
Medway

We are looking to recruit an outstanding individual to teach and participate in leading the development of Civil Engineering programmes across the Faculty of Design and Construction. The successful candidates will possess qualities of reliability, have good communication skills and hold a Degree or higher qualification in Civil Engineering or a related specialism. Previous industry experience is essential. The ideal candidate will hold or be willing to work towards a recognised teaching qualification.

Closing date: Wednesday 2 June 2010

MidKent College is working in partnership with RBLI Employment Solutions to support individuals who have a disability or health condition in the application, interview and employment with the college. If you would like any further information regarding RBLI, or require assistance with your application process then please contact RBLI on 0800 783 1144 or visit their website www.rbli.co.uk for information, advice and guidance.

The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of employment is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check in accordance with the College procedure.

Application forms and further details are available from www.midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively, please e-mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the HR department on 01634 383102 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number.

MidKent College is an equal opportunities employer

Action for Business College · Investors in Diversity · Positive About Disabled People · RBLI · Investors in People

THAMESVIEW SCHOOL with Business & Enterprise Status
Thong Lane, Gravesend, Kent, DA12 4LF
Headteacher: **Miss R. Hughes** B.Ed Hons
Tel: 01474 566552 Fax: 01474 537405
email: school@thamesview.kent.sch.uk
Website: http://www.thamesview.kent.sch.uk

Headteacher's Personal Assistant (PA)
(with Clerk to Governors' Role)

Required for June 2010

37 hours per week for 40 weeks per year (term time plus one week)
Kent Salary Scale 8 (pts 24-28) £23,053.00 to £26,421.00 pa
Pro rata to £19,959.29 to £22875.30 pa
Plus an allowance of £1600 pa for out of hours meetings
Lunch duty assistance 30 mins per day

We wish to appoint an experienced and dedicated administrative member of staff to the permanent position of Headteacher's PA to support her continuing to deliver a high level of leadership at our successful school. You will be the key confidential secretarial and administrative support for the Headteacher, line managing the main Office staff and working alongside the leadership team to help continue to move the school forward. The successful applicant must:

- Have strong interpersonal skills and demonstrate a high level of efficiency.
- Be able to liaise and communicate confidently with all levels of the school and its local community.
- Be confident to work independently, take initiative and multi-task.
- Have a cheerful disposition and demonstrate a positive outlook.
- Be a self-motivated worker who enjoys working in a school with young people.
- Be a positive, professional role model to the admin team.
- Be highly organised and able to manage your time well to meet deadlines when juggling a range of tasks

We are in the current wave of Building Schools for the Future (BSF), so have a brand new school due to open in July 2010 with incredible facilities for indoor and outdoor learning. Our new reception area has been designed to create an open-plan welcoming environment.

After 4 years of innovative improvement, Thamesview has now been awarded 'Good' (2) by Ofsted (in February 2009) for our 'Overall Effectiveness'.

You will be expected to submit an application form, including a 2-page letter outlining your reasons for wanting this position, together with evidence of how you have developed your own skills in readiness for this position. We are looking for the right person in this role, so if you think that you have the skills or the potential to put your stamp on this important role in the school then we want you to apply. If you think this sounds exciting, please telephone: ext 208 or email k.allen@thamesview.kent.sch.uk for further information. Details are also on our website: www.thamesview.kent.sch.uk

Closing Date - 27th May 2010 at 10.00am
Interviews - w/c 7th June 2010

The school is very conveniently located – 50 minutes to central London by train; 5 minutes to Ebbsfleet International Station; 15 minutes to the M25. Candidates are very welcome to visit the school. Please call to make arrangements.

We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of students.
Appointment to this post will require an Enhanced Disclosure via the Criminal Records Bureau.
Thamesview School operates a non-smoking policy

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Teachers Needed
Primary, Secondary and SEN.

Capita Education Resourcing is the leading provider of educational staff throughout the UK.

Our dedicated and friendly Kent team can provide you with:

- ✔ Daily/weekly/termly supply opportunities
- ✔ Excellent rates of pay – paid weekly
- ✔ Free in-service training and CPD assessment
- ✔ Free use of resource centre
- ✔ An out-of-hours service

Even if you can only spare one day a week we would love to hear from you.

To find out more information and to register with us, please call us free on:
0800 731 6871
or email
enquiry.ers@capita.co.uk

CAPITA EDUCATION RESOURCING (Agy)

Committed to equal opportunities

Recruiting Now!
Independent Nursery in Riverhead, Sevenoaks

Squiggles

We are a family run Nursery with a friendly team; we pride ourselves on our calm, clean, modern and happy environment. You will be able to join us at an important time in our development. We welcome and value your views and ideas and are committed to ongoing training and career development. We want you to grow as we grow!

We are recruiting for the following positions;

- **Nursery Manager – new position**
- **Room Leader for baby room**
- **Level 3 Qualified Nursery Nurses**
- **Holiday Cover/Bank Staff**
- **Part time hours/job share available**

Benefits include;

- Competitive salary
- Health cash plan
- Subsidised childcare
- Stakeholder pension
- Ongoing training
- Generous holiday allowance

For further information please visit our website or contact **Jackie** or **Siobhan** on **01732 461146**
www.squiggleschildcare.co.uk

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NORTHFLEET SCHOOL FOR GIRLS
Hall Road, Northfleet, Kent DA11 8AQ
Tel: 0844 477 2525 Fax: 01474 335058

We are seeking to appoint an

Academic Coach for English – 37 hours per week commencing 8.15 a.m. with varying end times

Both are Kent Scheme 5 Points 14-17 - £14,170 to £15,738 p.a.

As an Academic Coach you will work with the more able individuals and groups of students to motivate and ensure adequate challenge, in order that students meet their targets and that any barriers to learning are overcome. You will work as part of a domain focused curriculum team, and be educated to at least A Level standard.

Full job description and application form available on our website at www.northfleetgirls.kent.sch.uk. Application by fully completed application form with supporting letter to Mrs S Chisholm at the school (tel: 0844 477 2525) or email: personnel@northfleetgirls.kent.sch.uk.

The successful applicant will be subject to a full CRB check.

Closing date for applications: Friday, 4 June 2010

Swale BOROUGH COUNCIL NORTH KENT COAST

Community Cohesion Officer Sheerness

Salary - £21,659 to £28,805 • 37 hours p.w.

The Borough of Swale is a diverse area with a fast growing population providing both opportunities and challenges to its communities.

Sheerness and the Isle of Sheppey in particular are experiencing significant changes and to help ensure that Sheerness has a strong, active and engaged community, a Community Cohesion Officer is required for Sheerness.

We are seeking a creative and self-motivated individual to work sensitively with both the local communities and agencies to deliver a programme of projects and activities to address local issues and needs and encourage participation.

You will have proven experience of working in a community development setting with a range of different communities e.g. age ranges, faiths and races.

The successful post holder will join Swale Borough Council's Community Team but will be based in Sheerness.

This is a fixed term post until 31 March 2011. Secondment or job-share would be considered.

To discuss the position please contact Kirsty Gaunt, Community Development Officer on 01795 417457 kirstygaunt@swale.gov.uk

Closing Date: 7th June 2010
Interviews: w/c 14th June 2010

To advertise in this section
01303 817040

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Administration, Secretarial, PA

Administrator and PA to Doctor
Canterbury
Salary: TBC
Closing Date: 31/05/10
Full-time/ Part-time/Jobshare Are you looking for a change in direction or looking to take a new route with your skills? An opportunity has arisen within a rapidly expanding, exceptional health centre.The position is extremely sought after and is available immediately. Administrator and PA to Doctor of a rapidly expanding health care practice. We require minimum qualifications of 5 GCSE's Grade C and above (must include English and Mathematics) Basic computer skills are preferable: Proficient user of Sage 50 and Microsoft Office, particularly Word, Excel and Publisher • Hard working and motivated • Enthusiastic and committed • Organised and efficient Work well solo • Works well within a team • Thrives on self improvement and success
To apply/more information: Practice Manager Wellness Practice
Quoting Job Ref: ISC1
Tel: 01227 789977
Email admin@idealspinecentre.co.uk

Receptionist / Customer Service
Canterbury
Salary: negotiable
Closing Date: 31/05/10
FULL-TIME OR JOBSHARE/PART-TIME can you Provide excellent service "Walt Disney style"? Are you • Hard working and motivated • Enthusiastic and committed • Organised and efficient • Work well solo • Work well within a team • Thrive on self improvement and success? Then we have the job for you!! We require minimum qualifications of 5 GCSE's Grade C and above (must include English and Mathematics). Basic computer skills are preferable. No experience necessary as full training will be given. Apply for this position if you consider yourself to be confident and outgoing. If you think you have what we are looking for, please apply in writing with your CV to: Practice Manager, The Wellness Practice Ltd, Blean, Nr Canterbury, Kent CT2 9EB.
To apply/more information: Practice Manager Wellness Practice
Quoting Job Ref: cust 001
Tel: 01227 789977
Email admin@idealspinecentre.co.uk

Office Clerk/Secretary
Chatham
Salary: TBA
To apply/more information: Network Health & Beauty Ltd
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email info@nhab.co.uk

BOOKINGS ADMINISTRATOR
Tunbridge Wells
Salary: TBA
To apply/more information: Skinner & Reeves
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 07803 928320
Email anne@skinnerandreeves.com

ADMINISTRATOR
Ashford
Salary: £13,011
Closing Date: Monday 7th June 2010
To apply/more information: Heath Farm Family Services
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01233 712030
Email wcameron@heathfarm.org

OFFICE ASSISTANT
Tunbridge Wells
Salary: £11,000
To apply/more information: Drake & Fletcher
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01892 559915
Email mail@drakes.biz

Catering, Hospitality

Part Time Team Members
Maidstone
Salary: TBA
To apply/more information: KFC
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email staff@castlebarn.myzen.co.uk

CHEF D'PARTIE
Tunbridge Wells
Salary: TBA
To apply/more information: Beacon (The)
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01892 524252
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Kitchen Assistant
Canterbury
Salary: TBA
To apply/more information: Littlebourne House
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01227 721527
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Child Care

Nursery Manager
Sevenoaks
Salary: TBA
To apply/more information: Squiggles Child Care
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01732 461146
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Room Leader for baby room
Sevenoaks
Salary: TBA
To apply/more information: Squiggles Child Care
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01732 461146
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Level 3 Qualified Nursery Nurses
Sevenoaks
Salary: TBA
To apply/more information: Squiggles Child Care
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01732 461146
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Holiday Cover/Bank Staff
Sevenoaks
Salary: TBA

To apply/more information: Squiggles Child Care
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01732 461146
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Construction, Architecture, Surveyors

Plasterer
Hythe
Salary: TBA
To apply/more information: Charlier Construction
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01303 268211
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Education, Teacher, School

Headteacher's Personal Assistant
Gravesend
Salary: Pro rata to £19,959.29 to £22875.30 pa
To apply/more information: Thames View Junior School
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email k.allen@ thamesview.kent.sch.uk

Skills and Employability Coaches
Kent
Salary: £16k – £22k pro rata
Closing Date: 7th June
To apply/more information: Just One Step Ltd
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 07969 463 809
Email julie@justonestep.co,uk

Academic Coach for English
Dartford
Salary: £14,170 to £15,738 p.a.
Closing Date: Friday, 4 June 2010
To apply/more information: Northfleet School for Girls
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 0844 477 2525
Email personnel@ northfleetgirls.kent.sch.uk

Part-Time Teacher of PE
Gravesend
Salary: See below
Closing Date: Wednesday 9 June 2010
To apply/more information: Gravesend Grammar School for Girl
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01474 352896
Email enquiries@ggsg.org.uk

Part-Time Teacher of Music
Gravesend
Salary: See below
Closing Date: Wednesday 9 June 2010
To apply/more information: Gravesend Grammar School for Girl
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01474 352896
Email enquiries@ggsg.org.uk

Advanced Skills Lecturer in Civil Engineering
Medway
Salary: £40,512 per annum
Closing Date: Wednesday 2 June 2010
To apply/more information: Mid Kent College
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01634 383102
Email job.applications@midkent.ac.uk

Engineering, Manufacturing, Utilities

Engineering Apprentices
Medway
Salary: TBA
To apply/more information: IPS International Ltd
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email janiceclarke@ips-international.com

Estate Agency, Property

Bairstow Eves - Trainee Estate Agents
Kent
Salary: TBA
To apply/more information: Mann & Co
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email sarah.mcglinchey@ bairstowevescountrywide.co.uk

Leisure, Tourism, Travel

Manager and Promoter
Canterbury
Salary: TBA
To apply/more information: Kent Bars
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email Kent.bars@googlemail.com

Motor Trade, Driver

Experienced Car Sales Executive
Bexley
Salary: TBA
To apply/more information: Whitehouse (Dartford)
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 020 8304 8198
Email trevor.howard@ whitehousegroup.co.uk

Experienced Sales Administrator
Bexley
Salary: TBA
To apply/more information: Whitehouse (Dartford)
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 020 8304 8198
Email trevor.howard@ whitehousegroup.co.uk

Fully skilled M.O.T tester and mechanics
Dartford
Salary: TBA
To apply/more information: Claremont Motors
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 0208 8542325
Email infowelling@ claremontmotors.co.uk

Service Receptionist
Dartford
Salary: TBA
To apply/more information: Claremont Motors
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 0208 8542325
Email infowelling@ claremontmotors.co.uk

Experienced Sales Executive
Maidstone
Salary: TBA
To apply/more information: Whitehouse Maidstone
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email mark.wood@ whitehousegroup.co.uk

Sunday Receptionist
Maidstone
Salary: TBA
To apply/more information: Whitehouse Maidstone

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Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email mark.wood@whitehousegroup.co.uk

SALES ADMINISTRATOR

Sevenoaks
Salary: TBA
To apply/more information: Caffyns Peugeot
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01732 740740
Email sue.byrom@caffyns.co.uk

Drivers and Child Supervisors

Tonbridge
Salary: TBA
To apply/more information: GMS Travel Ltd
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01732 355866
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Weekend Taxi Drivers

Tonbridge
Salary: TBA
To apply/more information: GMS Travel Ltd
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01732 355866
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Not for profit, Charities

Support Workers - Swale District

Isle of Sheppey
Salary: £5.33 - £8.49 per hour
Closing Date: 11/06/10
To apply/more information: Lynda Salisbury East Kent Mencap
Quoting Job Ref: CSW0004
Tel: 01843-224482
Email Lynda.Salisbury@eastkentmencap.co.uk

Support Workers - Swale District

Sittingbourne
Salary: £5.33 - £8.49 per hour
Closing Date: 11/06/10
To apply/more information: Lynda Salisbury East Kent Mencap
Quoting Job Ref: CSW0004
Tel: 01843-224482
Email Lynda.Salisbury@eastkentmencap.co.uk

Support Workers - Swale District

Faversham
Salary: £5.33 - £8.49
Closing Date: 11/06/10
To apply/more information: Lynda Salisbury East Kent Mencap
Quoting Job Ref: CSW0004
Tel: 01843-224482
Email Lynda.Salisbury@eastkentmencap.co.uk

Nursing, Medicine, Care Work

Massage Therapist

Canterbury
Salary: 8 - 22 k per annum
Closing Date: 31/05/10
To apply/more information: Practice Manager Wellness Practice
Quoting Job Ref: masthe 001
Tel: 01227 789977
Email admin@idealspinecentre.co.uk

Marketing, Sales and Communication

Canterbury
Salary: 12,500-26,500 depending on skils
Closing Date: 31/05/10
To apply/more information: Dr. Tracy Harley Wellness Practice
Quoting Job Ref: 2010-02
Tel: 01227 789977
Email drtracyharley@googlemail.com

Assistant Manager

Folkestone
Salary: TBA
To apply/more information: Cumbria House Residential Home
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01303 254019
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Career in Care

Canterbury
Salary: TBA
To find out more call 01227 265899 or visit www.allseasons.org.uk
To apply/more information: Enterprising Opportunities
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01227 265899
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Registered Nurse

Sandwich
Salary: TBA
To apply/more information: High View Oast Nursing Home
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01304 813333
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

FULL TIME SUPPORT WORKERS

Herne Bay
Salary: TBA
HARBOUR HOMES UK LTD Our new care home is opening in Herne bay this week. We are looking for FULL TIME SUPPORT WORKERS with experience in working with adults with enduring mental illness and complex needs. Please contact George Macalister on 01227 360287 or on 07768514531
To apply/more information: Harbour Care Homes
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01227 360287
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Part time Dental Nurse

Chatham
Salary: TBA
Part time position available for a dental nurse in our modern dental practice. Experience preferred but not essential as full training is provided. Hours include 4 afternoons and 2 mornings a week. Salary in keeping with the BDA guidelines. Please send your CV and hand written covering letter to Dr. Ryan, 1 Lavender Close, Chatham, Kent, ME5 0PU.
To apply/more information: Lavendar Close Dental Practice
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

SENIOR SUPPORT WORKERS

Sittingbourne
Salary: £15,250
ACH is a fast-growing organisation, developing new, highquality residential homes for adults with Learning Disabilities. Due to our continued growth we now require the following staff to complement our team at our home in BOBBING SENIOR SUPPORT WORKERS Salary from £15,250 SUPPORT WORKERS Salary £13,250 For an application pack please visit our website at www.achuk.com Alternatively e-mail louise.burrows@achuk.com or contact Human Resources on 0208 502 8871.
To apply/more information: ACH Care Homes Ltd
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 0208 502 8871
Email louise.burrows@achuk.com

SUPPORT WORKERS

Sittingbourne
Salary: £13,250
ACH is a fast-growing organisation, developing new, highquality residential homes for adults with Learning Disabilities. Due to our continued growth we now require the following staff to complement our team at our home in BOBBING SENIOR SUPPORT WORKERS Salary from £15,250 SUPPORT WORKERS Salary £13,250 For an application pack please visit our website at www.achuk.com Alternatively e-mail louise.burrows@achuk.com or contact Human Resources on 0208 502 8871.
To apply/more information: ACH Care Homes Ltd
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 0208 502 8871
Email louise.burrows@achuk.com

care assistants

Maidstone
Salary: TBA
Kent SCP are currently recruiting skilled and inexperienced care assistants, community carers and support workers across Kent. Call 01622 765365
To apply/more information: Kent Social Care Professionals
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01622 765365
Email info@kentscp.com

Vacancies filled fast online with
JobsforKent.co.uk
To advertise in this section or online
01303 817040

Community Carers

Maidstone
Salary: TBA
Kent SCP are currently recruiting skilled and inexperienced care assistants, community carers and support workers across Kent. Call 01622 765365
To apply/more information: Kent Social Care Professionals
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01622 765365
Email info@kentscp.com

Support Worker

Maidstone
Salary: TBA
Kent SCP are currently recruiting skilled and inexperienced care assistants, community carers and support workers across Kent. Call 01622 765365.
To apply/more information: Kent Social Care Professionals
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01622 765365
Email info@kentscp.com

PCP SUPPORT WORKERS x 2

Gravesend
Salary: £10.39 per hour
Closing Date: Friday 28th May 2010
PCP SUPPORT WORKERS x 2 Working with people with learning disabilities across Dartford, Swanley & Gravesham Salary £10.39 per hour, 28 hours per week (Fixed Term for 1 year) • Do you want to make a difference by helping people to realise and fulfil their aspirations? • Can you use your creative skills to support individuals to make plans for their future? • Do you have experience in supporting people with learning disabilities and people with complex needs? • Are you good at building relationships? If so we want to hear from you! This is an exciting and rewarding post for an enthusiastic, self-motivated person with excellent people skills. You will be working closely with individuals, families, carers' and support staff in the development of person centred plans and their implementation. This post involves flexibile working hours including some evenings and weekends. For an application pack and more information please contact: Jaki on 01474 354479 or email jaki@nwkcvs.org Closing date: Friday 28th May 2010
Interviews: Thursday 17th June
To apply/more information: North West Kent Council for Voluntary Services
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01474 354479
Email jaki@nwkcvs.org

Experienced Part Time Dental Receptionist/Nurse

Maidstone
Salary: TBA
A five star private dental clinic with a great team need an Experienced Part Time Dental Receptionist/Nurse Are you a team player, customer service orientated and eager to explore new ideas to achieve excellence? Friendly, positive attitude and willingness to learn fast is a big advantage. Must be able to cover holiday and sickness. For more details call 01732 522255.
To apply/more information: IQ Dental & Implant Centre
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01732 522255
Email info@iqdental.co.uk

Domestic Staff

Canterbury
Salary: TBA
Littlebourne House Care Home A busy family run home require dedicated Domestic Staff and Kitchen Assistant For more information please call Amanda – 01227 721527 Mon - Fri
To apply/more information: Littlebourne House
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01227 721527
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

TEAM MANAGER

Ashford
Salary: £38,000 - £45,000
Closing Date: Monday 7th June 2010
Heath Farm Foster Care, Education & Therapy To support our continued growth and development we are seeking to recruit the following position TEAM MANAGER (New Post) £38,000 - £45,000 • Company Car Provided We are seeking an experienced, highly motivated and forward thinking social worker to manage the social work team towards achieving best outcomes for children and young people through providing high levels of support to carers and effective coordination of Heath Farm services. Social Work Qualification and GSCC Registration essential.
BENEFITS INCLUDE: To the right candidates we can offer a range of benefits including excellent working conditions, private health care insurance, company pension scheme and access to regular supervision and professional development.
Closing date for both applications is Monday 7th June 2010 Interviews will take place w/c 14th June 2010 Heath Farm is an Equal Opportunities employer and operates a no smoking policy. If you have the ability and qualities required and wish to join a successful and growing organisation where your skills will be appreciated, email wcameron@heathfarm.org for an application pack Tel: 01233 712030.
To apply/more information: Heath Farm Family Services
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01233 712030
Email wcameron@heathfarm.org

Care Workers

Ashford
Salary: TBA
Care Workers Needed For small expanding company based in Kennington. Various hours available, but will need to be flexible due to hours. Experience not necessary as training will be provided. Car driver essential. All local work in Ashford and surrounding areas. Please call – 01233 610542.
To apply/more information: One 2 One
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01233 610542
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Print, Packaging, Distribution

Print Finisher/ collator operator

Dartford
Salary: £14k - £16k
Closing Date: 30/05/10
Experienced collator operator required for North Kent Divider manufacturer. Experienced Setmaster operator's only should apply. Inthe first instance applicants should apply in writing to Unit 9 Optima Park, Thames Road, Dartford, DA1 4QX.
To apply/more information: BDS Ltd
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01322 524673
Email paul@bds4tabs.com

No 1 all-rounder Night Print Finisher

Tunbridge Wells
Salary: £28,800
Fox Print Services are one of the South East's leading commercial printing companies working for many of the UK's major brands in both B2B and B2C – Healthcare, Telecoms, Financial, and Publishing. The role We are currently seeking an experienced, print finisher with stitching, folding, and guillotine experience. Knowledge of Heidelberg cylinder an advantage. To apply please email your CV to Rebecca Oldroyd Rebecca.oldroyd@foxprintservices.co.uk or post it to Fox Print Services LLP Unit 2c Wyvern House Longfield Road Tunbridge Wells TN2 3EY Fox Print Services are an equal opportunities employer
To apply/more information: Fox Print Services
Quoting Job Ref: NPF-001
Email Rebecca.oldroyd@foxprintservices.co.uk

Public Sector, Social Services

Community Cohesion Officer

Sheerness
Salary: £21,659 to £28,805
Closing Date: 7th June 2010
Community Cohesion Officer Sheerness Salary - £21,659 to £28,805 37 hours p.w. The Borough of Swale is a diverse area with a fast growing population providing both opportunities and challenges to its communities. Sheerness and the Isle of Sheppey in particular are experiencing significant changes and to help ensure that Sheerness has a strong, active and engaged community, a Community Cohesion Officer is required for Sheerness. We are seeking a creative and self-motivated individual to work sensitively with both the local communities and agencies to deliver a programme of projects and activities to address local issues and needs and encourage participation. You will have proven experience of working in a community development setting with a range of different communities e.g. age ranges, faiths and races. The successful post holder will join Swale Borough Council's Community Team but will be based in Sheerness. This is a fixed term post until 31 March 2011. Secondment or job-share would be considered. To discuss the position please contact Kirsty Gaunt, Community Development Officer on 01795 417457 kirstygaunt@swale.gov.uk
Closing Date: 7th June 2010
Interviews: w/c 14th June 2010
To apply/more information: Swale Borough Council
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01795 417457
Email kirstygaunt@swale.gov.uk

Retail, Wholesale, Sales

Sales People

Maidstone
Salary: TBA
Sales People Required for expanding food company. Full training and company vehicle supplied. Tel: Bob on 01622 670100
To apply/more information: Ocean Delights
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01622 670100
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Salesperson

Tunbridge Wells
Salary: OTE £35k
Savings Bonus Plan Join the DFS sales team and you'll get the best of both worlds: great pay and fantastic job satisfaction. If you get a buzz out of talking to customers andhelping them to choose the perfect sofa, we want to hear from you. If you've got sales experience then great, if not, we'll give you the best training in the business and every opportunity to build a long and more than great pay, call us now on 01302 573333
To apply/more information: www.dfs.co.uk
Quoting Job Ref: 68/05/1/10
Tel: 01302 573333
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

PUBLIC NOTICE

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACTS – NOTICES OF APPLICATIONS

The following applications have been submitted to the Council and are being advertised for the reason(s) given in each case.

TM/10/00918/FL – The Old School House Addington Green Addington West Malling Kent ME19 5BE – Mr P Catt is applying for single storey side extension. Reason: CA HH

TM/10/00974/FL – Yotes Court Mereworth Road Mereworth Maidstone Kent ME18 5JQ – Mrs Susannah Ricci is applying for creation of a new drive and entrance off the Mereworth Road, removal of existing driveway including gates, cattlegrids, fencing and landscaping . Reason: CA LB

TM/10/00992/FL – Church Of St Thomas Of Canterbury 28 Holborough Road Snodland Kent ME6 5PB – Berry Estates Ltd are applying for redevelopment of former church site with a terrace of four no. 2 bedroom houses and one no. 3 bedroom house with associated new access, car parking and bin storage. Reason: CA GPI

TM/10/00803/FL – 45 Bradbourne Lane Ditton Aylesford Kent ME20 6PD – Mr John Sellick is applying for replacement of existing dwelling with a new 3 bedroom dwelling. Reason: CA

TM/10/01229/FL – Fremlins Dell Comp Lane Offham West Malling Kent ME19 5NW – Mr P Garrod is applying for convert bungalow into two storey dwelling with bedroom, en-suite and dressing room within the attic. Two storey side extension and single storey rear extension. Reason: CA HH

TM/10/00990/FL – Land Adjacent Endeavour House 259 Forstal Road Aylesford Kent ME20 7AP – T-Mobile UK Ltd And Hutchision 3G UK Ltd are applying for installation of a 20m high monopole supporting 3 no. antennas and 4 no. dish antennas; ground based radio equipment housing and ancillary equipment. Reason: TEL

TM/10/00183/FL – Kildonan St Marys Road Wrotham Sevenoaks Kent TN15 7AP – Mrs Helen Atkinson is applying for rear conservatory. Reason: CA HH

TM/10/00979/FL – Golding Orchard The Street Plaxtol Sevenoaks Kent TN15 0QG – Mr And Mrs Fulford are applying for erection of steel and glass veranda. Decorative steel frame with aluminium glazing bars and 6mm clear toughened glass. Reason: CA HH

TM/10/01090/FL – Keelers Yopps Green Plaxtol Sevenoaks Kent TN15 0PY – Mr And Mrs Tomlinson are applying for provision of tiled gable roof detail to roof valley to allow headroom for staircase to 2nd floor, pursuant to planning approval TM09/02399/FL. Reason: CA HH

TM/10/00858/FL & TM/10/00859/CA – Cricket Pavilion High Street Wrotham Sevenoaks Kent – Ms Lesley Cox is applying for proposal to build a new cricket pavilion with multi function community uses and to demolish the existing pavilion building. Reason: DEPART CA

TM/10/01105/FL – Kirby Cottage The Street Plaxtol Sevenoaks Kent TN15 0QH – Mr George Plommer is applying for front porch. Reason: CA LB

Reasons for the case being publicised:

LB	Application relates to/affects a Listed Building or its setting
CA	Application is within/affects a Conservation Area
DEPART	Application does not accord with the Development Plan
GPI	Application is of general Public Interest
TEL	Telecommunications development on a site of 1ha or more
HH	Householder application - As this is a householder application, in the event of an appeal against a refusal of planning permission, which is to be dealt with on the basis of representations in writing, any representations made about this application will be sent to the Secretary of State, and there will be no further opportunity to comment at appeal stage.

These applications are displayed on our website www.tmbc.gov.uk – click on the button "Online Planning" (then View Existing Applications and select Public Access). You can submit your comments by emailing to planning.applications@tmbc.gov.uk (please quote the application number by the date set out below). Please note that we will publish a copy of any representations received on the Council's website, including your name and address.

Copies of applications listed may be seen during office hours (8.30 am and 5.00 pm Monday to Friday). Any applications within Hadlow, Hildenborough and Tonbridge are available at Tonbridge Castle, Tonbridge. Other applications are available at the office of the Director of Planning, Transport & Leisure, Gibson Building, Gibson Drive, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4LZ. Any representations should be made in writing quoting the application number by 13 June 2010.

David Hughes
Chief Executive

23 May 2010

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

HIGHWAYS - District of Ashford

POUNDHURST ROAD, RUCKINGE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because of the installation of a new electrical supply, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting traffic on Poundhurst Road, Ruckinge, on and after 24 May 2010, for an estimated period of 5 days or until the works are complete.

The road will be closed outside Fairfield House. The alternative route for through traffic will be via Stone Cross Road, and Stonegate Lane.

FOOTPATH BETWEEN OAST MEADOW AND TAYWOOD CLOSE, ASHFORD (RESTRICTIONS ON PEDESTRIANS) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because of connections to wastwater piplines for a new housing development, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting pedestrians on the un-named footpath between Oast Meadow and Taywood Close, Ashford, on or after 24 May 2010, for an estimated period of 2 weeks or until the works are complete.

The footpath will be closed for its entire length. The alternative route for pedestrians will be via Taywood Close, Harvey Road, Windmill Close and Oast Meadow.

HINXHILL ROAD, HINXHILL (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because of tree cutting and aerial replacement works on behalf of BT, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting traffic on Hinxhill Road, Hinxhill on or after 8 June 2010 for an estimated period of 3 working days or until the works are complete.

The road will be closed between the junction with The Street and Court Lodge Farm. The alternative route for through traffic will be via The Street, A20 Hythe Road, Bockham Lane, Plumpton and Hinxhill Road.

The works will be carried out each day between the hours of 9.30 am and 3.30 pm, with the road re-opened outside these hours.

This Order will come into force on 8 June 2010, will be in operation when the appropriate signs are erected, and will remain valid for up to 18 months. The Order will allow the above-mentioned restrictions to be re-implemented if required for similar works within this period.

HIGHWAYS - District of Canterbury

GREENHILL GARDENS, HERNE BAY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because of gas mains replacement, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Greenhill Gardens, Herne Bay on or after 7 June 2010 for an estimated period of 8 weeks or until the works are complete.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via via Sea Street and Cobblers Bridge Road. The works will be carried out in phases, as shown below.

The first phase will be from the junction with Cobblers Bridge Road to the junction of the cul-de-sac section of Greenhill Gardens from 7 June 2010 for up to 4 weeks.

The second phase will be from the cul-de-sac to the junction with Greenhill Bridge Road from 5 July 2010 for up to 4 weeks.

A further closure will be needed in the vicinity of the junction with Greenhill Bridge Road, to be advised.

This Order will come into force on 8 June 2010, will be in operation when the appropriate signs are displayed, and will remain valid for up to 18 months. The Order will allow the above-mentioned restrictions to be re-implemented when required for similar works, within this period.

HOMEWOOD ROAD AND SLEIGH ROAD, STURRY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because of gas mains replacement, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Homewood Road and Sleigh Road, Sturry, on or after 7 June 2010, as shown below. The roads will each be closed at their junctions with Island Road.

Homewood Road will be closed from 7 June 2010 for up to 3 weeks. The alternate toute for through traffic is via Cedar Road, Sleigh Road and Island Road.

Sleigh Road will be closed from 5 July 2010 for up to 3 weeks. The alternate toute for through traffic is via Cedar Road, Homewood Road and Island Road.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Dartford

VARIOUS ROADS, DARTFORD (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on various roads, Dartford as noted in attached Schedule 1.

The Order will become effective on 24th May 2010, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to last 1 week. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the route described above will be via: as noted in the schedule.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate surface dressing works.

Schedule 1

Road Name:	**Highcross Road, Southfleet**
Extent:	From its junction with Whitehill Road and Betsham Road
Diversion:	Whitehill Road, Green Street Green Road and Sandbanks Hill.
Road Name:	**Betsham Road, Southfleet**
Extent:	From its junction with Westwood Road and Highcross Road
Diversion:	Station Road, Dale Road, Hook Green Road and Highcross Road.
Road Name:	**Sandbanks Hill, Southfleet**
Extent:	From its junction with Green Street Green Road and Highcross Road
Diversion:	Green Street Green Road, Whitehill Road and Highcross Road.

VARIOUS ROADS, STONE (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic and prohibiting the use of through traffic on various roads, Stone as noted in schedule 1.

The Order will become effective on 7th June 2010, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to commence 13th June 2010 and last approx 3 hours between 07.30 -10.30. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: as noted in the attached schedule.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate the Bluewater Sweatshop 10K

Schedule 1

Road Name:	**Cotton Lane**
Extent:	No Left Turn from Cotton Lane to B2228 Cotton Lane
Road Name:	**Traffic prohibited travelling southbound on B2228 Cotton Lane**
Extent:	Whole length
Diversion:	A282 Dartford Tunnel Approach
Road Name:	**London Road**
Extent:	Road Closed between it junctions with B2228 Cotton Lane to St Clements Way
Diversion:	St Clements Way, Crossways Boulevard, Bob Dunn Way / A282 Dartford Tunnel Approach

B2174 PRINCES ROAD, DARTFORD (CONVERSION OF FOOTWAY TO CYCLE TRACK) HIGHWAYS ACT 1980

Notice is hereby given that the Kent County Council, in exercise of its powers under sections 65 and 66 (1) of the Highways Act 1980 and all other enabling powers, intends to introduce a shared pedestrian / cycle route along the B2174 Princes Road from its junction with the A207 Crayford Road to its junction with the A225 Lowfield Street

Copies of the plan showing the extent of the proposal can be inspected during normal working hours at The Kent County Council Offices, Sessions House, Maidstone Kent, ME14 1XX and at Dartford Borough Council Offices, Home Gardens, Dartford, Kent, DA1 1DR.

Anyone wishing to comment on the introduction of the shared Un-Segregated Pedestrian / Cycle Track on the B2174 Princes Road, Dartford should write to Diane Bourne, Jacobs Engineering UK Ltd, Miller House, Lower Stone Street, Maidstone, Kent, ME15 6GB, quoting the name of the Notice and reference "B1480300" stating their reasons, by not later than Monday 14th June 2010. Responses received after this date will not be included.

Schedule 1

(Conversion of Footway to Shared Un-Segregated Pedestrian / Cycle Track)

B2174 Princes Road, Dartford:

- on the north eastern then northern side from a point 48.0 metres north west of its junction with North Road, south eastwards then eastwards to its junction with A225 Lowfield Street

- on the south western side

(1) from the mid point of its junction with North Road, north westwards for a distance of 60.5 metres

(2) from the mid point of its junction with North Road, south eastwards for a distance of 25.0 metres

HIGHWAYS - District of Dover

MOAT LANE & COOMBE LANE, ASH (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because of BT cabling works, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting traffic on Moat Lane & Coombe Lane, Ash, on or after 7 June 2010 for an estimated period of 2 weeks or until the works are complete.

The roads will be closed at various points as required for the works, as signposted on site. Every effort will be made to maintain access for residents when safe to do so. Access from Langdon Avenue into Coombe Lane may also be restricted, as shown on site. The alternative route for through traffic will be via The Street, New Street and Marshborough Road

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Gravesham

VARIOUS ROADS, GRAVESEND (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) (TEMPORARY RESTRICTION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting and restricting the use of vehicular traffic on various roads, Gravesend as noted in schedule 1.

The Order will become effective on 24th May 2010, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to last as noted in schedule 1. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: as noted in the schedule.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate winter damage carriageway repairs

Schedule 1

Road Name:	**Stone Street, Gravesend**
Extent:	Between the junctions with Rathmore Road and Clive Road
Date:	30th May 2010 for 1 day from 08.00am
Diversion:	Wrotham Road, Old Road West and Pelham Road.
Road Name:	**Stone Street, Gravesend**
Restriction:	Revoke left turn from Rathmore Road into Stone Street
Date:	30th May for 1 day from 08.00am
Road Name:	**Rathmore Road, Gravesend**
Extent:	Between the junctions with Stone Street and the car park exit
Date:	30th May 2010 for 1 day
Diversion:	Rathmore Road.
Road Name:	**Rathmore Road, Gravesend**
Restriction:	Temporary suspension of the one way working for duration of works
Date:	30th May 2010 for 1 day
Road Name:	**Darnley Road, Gravesend**
Extent:	Between the junctions with Pelham Road and Rathmore Road
Date:	6th June 2010 for 1 day
Diversion:	Darnley Road, New Road, Overcliffe, Lennox Road, Lennox Road East and Darnley Road.

WINGFIELD BANK, NORTHFLEET HIGHWAYS ACT 1980 – SECTION 116, STOPPING UP OF LAND

Notice is given that the Kent County Council propose to make an application to the Magistrates sitting at Dartford Magistrates Court on 7 July 2010 at 2pm for an Order under Section 116 of the Highways Act 1980 to extinguish highway rights on the grounds that they are unnecessary on land at the Wingfield Bank, Northfleet as shown in red on the plan on deposit.

A copy of this notice and the plan referred to are on deposit, and can be seen during normal office hours, at the main reception of Kent Highway Services at Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XQ and at the offices of Gravesend Borough Council, Civic Centre, Windmill Street, Gravesend, Kent.

If you require further information or would like to discuss this matter, please contact Nicolette Davis of Kent Highway Services in writing at the address given below, or by telephone on 08458 247 800 (24 hour contact centre).

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Maidstone

WINDMILL HILL, ULCOMBE (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Windmill Hill on or after Tuesday 25th May 2010 for a period of up to 10 days or until such works are completed.

The alternative route is via Eastwood Road, The Street, Ulcombe Hill, Lenham Road.

EDF Energy and BT apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works, which are necessary to provide new service, ducting and replacing a pole and cables. Should you require any further information regarding these works, the contacts are: EDF – Tom Nolan on 01622 352599, BT (ducting) – Kenton Stewart on 01795 437805 and BT (pole and cables) – Tracy Zeal on 08700 500792.

STOCKETT LANE, TOVIL (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Stockett Lane from Abbey Gate Court to Little Abbey Gate House on or after Wednesday 9th June 2010 for a period of up to 5 days or until such works are completed.

The alternative route is via Straw Mill Hill, Farleigh Hill, B2010 Dean Street, New Cut, Stockett Lane.

BT apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works, which are necessary to lay ducting. Should you require any further information about these works, the contact is Leah Mellis on 01795 429800.

HIGHWAYS - District of Sevenoaks

KNATTS VALLEY ROAD, WEST KINGSDOWN (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on Knatts Valley Road, West Kingsdown from its junction with Hill Lane and Knatts Lane.

The Order will become effective on 7th June 2010, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to last 1 week. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the restriction above will be via: Knatts Valley Road, Tinkerpot Lane and Knatts Lane.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate carriageway overlay.

HIGHWAYS - District of Thanet

VARIOUS ROADS, RAMSGATE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because of gas mains replacement, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting traffic on Various Roads, Ramsgate, on or after 24 May 2010, for an estimated period of 5 weeks or until the works are complete.

Each of the roads shown below will be closed at their junction with Margate Road, for up to 5 weeks. The start date for each closure will be notified by advanced signage on site.

Road Name:	**Roman Road**
Diversion:	Margate Road and Newington Road
Road Name:	**Violet Road**
Diversion:	Margate Road, Northwood Road and Hopes Lane
Road Name:	**Fitzroy Road**
Diversion:	Margate Road, Newington Road and Roman Road

OLD CROSSING ROAD, MARGATE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because of gas mains replacement, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting traffic on Old Crossing Road, Margate, on or after 24 May 2010, for an estimated period of 3 weeks or until the works are complete.

The road will be closed at the junction with Canterbury Road. The alternative route for through traffic will be via Canterbury Road, Bridge Road and Mutrix Road.

VARIOUS ROADS, MARGATE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because of works in connection with the construction of a cycle way, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting traffic on Various Roads, Margate on or after 26 May 2010, as shown below.

Phase 1

Road Name:	**Grosvenor Place, Margate**
Extent:	the junction with Grosvenor Hill
Dates:	26 May 2010 for up to one week
Diversion:	Marine Gardens, Belgrave Road and Eaton Road
Road Name:	**Grosvenor Hill, Margate**
Extent:	between the junctions with Park Place and Grosvenor Place
Dates:	26 May 2010 for up to one week
Diversion:	Churchfields, Churchfield Place, Hawley Square, Cecil Street, Cecil Square, Queen Street, Marine Gardens, Belgrave Road and Eaton Road
Other Details:	The works will be carried out between the hours of 9.30 am and 3.30 pm, with the road re-opened outside these hours There will be a suspension of the One-way Traffic Order in respect of Grosvenor Hill, between the junctions of Park Place and High Street.

Phase 2

Road Name:	**Victoria Road, Margate**
Extent:	between the junctions of Church Street and High Street
Dates:	14 June 2010 for up to 2 weeks
Diversion:	via Cowper Road, Arnold Road, St Peter's Footpath, Addiscombe Road, and St Peter's Road.
Other details:	The works will be carried out between the hours of 9.30 am and 2.45 pm, with the road re-opened outside these hours.

For further information, please contact Kent Highway Services, on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent Highway Services

VARIOUS ROADS, THANET
(WAITING RESTRICTIONS AND STREET PARKING PLACES) (CONSOLIDATION) (AMENDMENT NO 32) ORDER 2010

Notice is hereby given that Kent County Council propose to make the above named Order under sections 1(1), 2(1) to (3), 3(2), 4(1) and (2), 32(1), 35(1), 45, 46, 49 and 53 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Paragraph 20 of Schedule 9 to the Act:

The effect of the Order will be to introduce no waiting at any time (double yellow lines) on the following lengths of road:-

Road Name:	**Eastchurch Road**
Extent:on	the Northern side from the junction with Princess Margaret Avenue to the junction with Sandhurst Road
Road Name:	**Sandhurst Road**
Extent:	on the Southern side from the junction with Eastchurch Road to the junction with Knockholt Road
Road Name:	**Knockholt Road**
Extent:	on the Northern side from the junction with Botany Road to the junction with Springfield Road (includes the existing double yellow lines)
Road Name:	**Springfield Road**
Extent:	on the Southern side from the junction with Knockholt Road to the junction with Eastchurch Road

Full details are contained in the draft Order which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended by the proposals and a statement of reasons for proposing to make the Order may be examined on Mondays to Fridays at Kent Highway Services, Javelin Way Ashford, TN24 8AD, between 8.30am and 5.00pm, and at Thanet District Council, Cecil Street, Margate, during normal opening times.

If you wish to offer support for or object to the proposed Order you should send the grounds in writing to the Transport and Development Team Leader, Kent Highway Services, Javelin Way, Ashford, TN24 8AD

or by email to td.canterbury.thanet@kent.gov.uk by noon on Monday 21 June 2010.

FOADS HILL, RAMSGATE
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because of works in connection with the construction of the new East Kent Access Road, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting traffic on Foads Hill, Ramsgate on or after 7 June 2010. This is initially for an estimated period of 4 weeks. A further closure will also be necessary as advised.

The road will be closed between the junctions with Clive Road and Cliffs End Road. The alternative route for through traffic will be via Foads Hill, A299 Canterbury Road West, Lord of the Manor Interchange, A256 Sandwich Road and Cliffs End Road.

This Order will come into force on 8 June 2010, will be in operation when the appropriate signs are erected, and will remain valid for up to 18 months. The Order will allow the above-mentioned restrictions to be re-implemented when required for similar works, within this period.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Tonbridge & Malling

MILL HALL & STATION ROAD LEVEL CROSSINGS, AYLESFORD
(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Mill Hall and Station Road Level Crossings.

The dates and times for Mill Hall closures:

22:00hrs Friday 11 June 2010 to 06:00hrs Monday 14 June 2010
22:00hrs Monday 14 June 2010 to 05:00hrs Tuesday 15 June 2010
22:00hrs Tuesday 15 June 2010 to 05:00hrs Wednesday 16 June 2010
22:00hrs Friday 02 July 2010 to 04:00hrs Monday 05 July 2010
22:00hrs Monday 05 July 2010 to 05:00hrs Tuesday 06 July 2010
22:00hrs Tuesday 06 July 2010 to 05:00hrs Wednesday 07 July 2010
22:00hrs Wednesday 07 July 2010 to 05:00hrs Thursday 08 July 2010
23:00hrs Wednesday 28 July 2010 to 05:00hrs Thursday 29 July 2010
22:00hrs Monday 02 August 2010 to 05:00hrs Tuesday 03 August 2010
22:00hrs Thursday 05 August 2010 to 05:00hrs Friday 06 August 2010
22:00hrs Monday 09 August 2010 to 05:00hrs Tuesday 10 August 2010
22:00hrs Thursday 12 August 2010 to 05:00hrs Friday 13 August 2010

The dates and times for Station Road closures:

22:00hrs Friday 25 June 2010 to 06:00hrs Monday 28 June 2010
22:00hrs Monday 28 June 2010 to 05:00hrs Tuesday 29 June 2010
22:00hrs Tuesday 29 June 2010 to 05:00hrs Wednesday 30 June 2010
22:00hrs Wednesday 30 June 2010 to 05:00hrs Thursday 01 July 2010
22:00hrs Tuesday 03 August 2010 to 05:00hrs Wednesday 04 August 2010
22:00hrs Wednesday 04 August 2010 to 05:00hrs Thursday 05 August 2010
22:00hrs Tuesday 10 August 2010 to 05:00hrs Wednesday 11 August 2010
22:00hrs Wednesday 11 August 2010 to 05:00hrs Thursday 12 August 2010

The alternative route for Station Road is via Hall Road, A20 London Road, Rocky Hill, Broadway, St Peter's Bridge, Fairmeadow, A229 Royal Engineers Road, Running Horse Roundabout, Forstal Road, Bailey Bridge Road. There is no alternative route for Mill Hall, access will be maintained but delays are expected.

Balfour Beatty RIS Ltd apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works, which are necessary for track renewal purposes. Should you require any further information regarding these works, please contact Traffic Management Services Ltd on 01777 705053.

A228 CASTLE WAY/A228 LEYBOURNE BY-PASS, LEYBOURNE)
(PROHIBITION OF RIGHT TURN) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting traffic from turning right onto A228 Leybourne By-Pass from A228 Castle Way on or after Monday 7th June 2010 for a period of up to 1 day or until such works are completed.

The alternative route is to turn left onto A228 Leybourne By-Pass to the Park Road Roundabout and return via the by-pass.

Kent Highway Services apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works, which are necessary to replace traffic signal heads. Should you require any further information regarding these works, please contact Andrew Beck of Jacobs on 01622 666219

For further information, please contact Kent Highway Services, on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent Highway Services

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Town and Country Planning Acts

The Council is required to give notice of the following applications

10/01552/HOUSE **Upper Scullsgate Hinksden Road, Benenden**
- Removal of existing outbuilding and construction of oak framed outbuilding in similar location (LB)

10/01440/HOUSE **Brattles Grange Tibbs Court Lane, Brenchley**
- Single-storey extension to kitchen in place of an extension built in 2003 (LB)

10/01442/LBC **Brattles Grange Tibbs Court Lane, Brenchley- Listed Building Consent** - Single-storey extension to kitchen in place of an extension built in 2003 (LB)

10/01399/FUL **Hartley Dyke Farmhouse Hartley Road, Cranbrook And Sissinghurst**
- Conversion of barn for holiday accommodation (revised application to TW/01/00965/FUL) (LB)

10/01402/LBC **Hartley Dyke Farmhouse Hartley Road, Cranbrook And Sissinghurst**
- Listed Building Consent - Conversion of barn for holiday accommodation (revised application to TW/01/00966/LBC) (LB

10/01276/HOUSE **Poundlands Farm Biddenden Road, Frittenden**
- Demolition of former barracks building; Erection of single outbuilding containing garage/pool room and stables, outdoor swimming pool and tennis court with 2.75m high upvc covered chain link fence (LB)

10/01541/HOUSE **Poplar Cottage The Street, Frittenden**
- Single storey rear extension and bricking up of 2 no. ground floor windows on side elevation (CA)

10/01299/LBC **1-8 Colonnade Rye Road, Hawkhurst**
- Listed Building Consent - Repairs to roof and columns (LB)

10/01522/FUL **The Old School House 3 Cumberland Walk, Pantiles & St Marks**
- Removal of Condition 1 of TW/08/02571 to allow permanent use of the building, and variation of Condition 2 to extend the hours of use for Thursdays, in line with hours of new premises license (CA)

10/01436/HOUSE **20 Lansdowne Road Royal Tunbridge Wells, Park**
- First and second floor rear extension (CA)

10/01458/FULMJ **Direct 4 Filling Station 13 - 17 London Road, Southborough North**
- Demolition of existing petrol filling station and car dealership buildings and the construction of 28 No. dwellings and office; New road and landscaping (CA) (LB) (MAJOR)

10/01459/CAC **Direct 4 Filling Station 13 - 17 London Road, Southborough North**
- Conservation Area Consent - Demolition of existing petrol filling station and car dealership buildings (CA)

10/01548/FUL **Hollonds Farm Langton Road, Speldhurst**
- Conversion of existing barns and stables to form 2 dwellings (CA) (LB)

10/01550/LBC **Hollonds Farm Langton Road, Speldhurst**
- Listed Building Consent - Conversion of existing barns and stables to form 2 dwellings (LB)

10/01546/HOUSE **67 St James Road Royal Tunbridge Wells, St James**
- Single storey side extension (CA)

(DEVPLN) Departure from the Development Plan (PROW) Affecting A Public Right of Way (CA) Affecting a Conservation Area (LB) Affecting a Listed Building (MAJOR) Major Applications (MAST) Mast Applications (EIA) Applications Accompanied by an EIA Statement.

You may view these applications on our website (www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk), at the The Old Fire Station, Stone Street, Cranbrook or at Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells. We accept comments online, by email to planningcomments@tunbridgewells.gov.uk or in writing to the address below. Comments should be made within 21 days from the date of this notice, although we may accept them after this date.

You should quote the reference and be aware that we make all comments available for inspection, placing them on the file and publishing them on the internet. We do not publish signatures, telephone numbers or email addresses on the internet.

Jim Kehoe
Head of Planning Services
Town Hall Royal Tunbridge Wells TN1 1RS

Dated: 22 May 2010

Gravesend Grammar School for Girls
A Specialist Science and Language College
Pelham Road, Gravesend, Kent DA11 0JE
Telephone: 01474 352896 Fax: 01474 331195 Website:www.ggsg.org.uk
email: enquiries@ggsg.org.uk

Science

Part-Time Teacher of PE (Maternity Cover 0.4 FTE)

Required from Sept 2010
Main Professional Scale

We are seeking to appoint an enthusiastic and committed PE Teacher to cover maternity leave from Sept 2010 to June 2011.

The ideal candidate will be able to teach KS3 and KS4 core PE. Willingness to contribute to extra-curricular activities would be an advantage. The role is part time maternity cover for 2 days a week or equivalent.

Part-Time Teacher of Music (Maternity Cover 0.6 FTE)

Required from Sept 2010
Main Professional Scale

We are seeking to appoint an enthusiastic and committed Music Teacher to cover maternity leave from Sept 2010 to June 2011.

The ideal candidate will be able to teach music up to A level. Willingness to contribute to extra-curricular activities would be an advantage. The role is part time maternity cover for 3 days a week or equivalent.

The School has a high profile for achievement locally and nationally and prides itself on a strong record of internal professional development including a full induction in the Summer term.

The School is also an Investor in People and an Investor in Careers.

We have been a Specialist Science College since September 2004 and a Specialist Language College since April 2009.

Application forms and further details are available from the School Office. Completed forms should be returned by post, fax or email for the attention of Mrs E Wilson, Headteacher no later than Wednesday 9 June 2010

This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

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FirstDrive by STEVELOADER

Peugeot RCZ

RCZ – the pride of the lion brand

PEUGEOT is re-inventing itself and the way we enjoy driving.

The French marque aims to climb from 10th place to seventh in the world car production rankings within five years, and has a string of products waiting.

To underline this, a thoroughly modern version of the famous lion badge roars this new boldness.

And the first car to wear it, the RCZ, is a revolutionary car for both Peugeot and the market.

It marks a break from the brand's tradition of numerical model identities – it actually has a name, albeit one made of initials.

But while it might echo the Audi TT's styling, this is a sporty car in keeping with Peugeot's intention to champion eco-motoring using an array of technologies: internal combustion, hybrid, electric and, in the future, fuel cells.

It looks stunning with its distinctive lines, aluminium roof bars, double bubble roof and rear screen and exaggerated wheel arches, but this really is lean and mean sports car driving.

None of the models available this year has CO2 emissions above 170g/km or falls far short of averaging 40mpg, and a diesel hybrid, available in 2012, will deliver 95g/km and an average around 75mpg plus all-wheel drive – diesel to the front wheels and electric power to the rear.

For now, there is a choice of a lively turbocharged 156bhp 1.6-litre petrol or 163bhp 2.0-litre turbodiesel, with six-speed auto and uprated 200bhp versions of the former available later this year.

The 200bhp will hit 62mph in 7.6 seconds, but you wonder whether there is a real leader for this pride of lions to come, or will the hybrid do the job?

Of course, that redesigned lion emblem does not change one factor against this wonderfully brave car – badge snobbery.

While attending the launch, I was buttonholed by an onlooker who told me the car looked terrific, but had the 'wrong' badge on the bonnet.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 85

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10 59 FOCUS 1-6 TITANIUM AUTO PAS HATCHBACK SILVER 500 MILES £15995
10 59 MERCEDES A160 AVANTGARDE AUTO PAS BROWN 900 MILES £15995
09 59 FOCUS 1-6 TITANIUM AUTO PAS HATCHBACK BLACK 650 MILES £14995
09 59 FUSION 1-6 TITANIUM AUTO PAS HATCHBACK BLUE 3000 MILES £11995
09 59 NISSAN NOTE ACENTA 5 DR AUTO PAS CAFFE LATTE 2000 MILES £10495
09 59 NISSAN NOTE VISIA 5 DR AUTO PAS GREY METALLIC 1800 MILES £10495
09 59 ZAFIRA 19 EXCLUSIVE DIESEL AUTO PAS BLACK MET DEL MILES £14995
09 59 SUZUKI 1-5 SWIFT GLZ 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR/C 450 MILES £10495
09 09 AGILA 1-2 DESIGN AUTO PAS 5 DR AIR/C METALLIC BLUE 5000 MILES £9495
09 09 ZAFIRA 19 EXCLUSIVE DIESEL AUTO PAS BLACK MET DEL MILES £13995
09 09 CHEVROLET LACETTI 1-6 SX AUTO PAS 5 DR SILVER 900 MILES £7995
09 09 MAZDA 3 TAKARA 1-6 AUTO PAS ALLOYS 5 DR SILVER 7000 MILES £12495
09 09 FORD C-MAX 2-0 ZETEC AUTO PAS 5 DR AVALON BLUE 3000 MILES £12995
09 09 NEW FOCUS 1-6 ZETEC 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR/C BLUE MET 3000 MILES £12995
09 09 CHEVROLET LACETTI EST 1-8 SX SW AUTO PAS 5 DR SILVER 3000M £7995
09 09 DAIHATSU MATERA 1-5 5 DR AUTO PAS RED AIR/C 1900 MILES £9995
09 09 NISSAN NOTE VISIA 5 DR AUTO PAS BLUE METALLIC 1800 MILES £9995
09 09 NEW CORSA 1-2 DESIGN AUTO PAS AIR/C 5 DR GREEN 6000 MILES £10995
09 09 CHEVROLET AVEO LT AUTO PAS AIR/C BLACK 2000 MILES £8495
09 09 KIA PICANTO 2 1-1 AUTO PAS AIR/C ORANGE 2000 MILES £7495
09 58 HONDA JAZZ 1-4 SE 5 DR AUTO PAS METALLIC BLUE 7000 MILES £10995
09 58 MERC A160 CLASSIC DIESEL AUTO PAS STEPPE BROWN 8000MILES £13995
08 58 ASTRA 1-8 DESIGN AUTO PAS ESTATE BLACK 4000 MILES £10995
08 58 NEW FOCUS 1-6 STYLE AUTO PAS AIR/C DEEP RED 3000 MILES £11995
08 58 MAZDA 3 TAKARA 1-6 AUTO PAS ALLOYS 5 DR RED MET 5000 MILES £11495
08 58 MEGANE 1-6 EXPRESSION ESTATE AUTO PAS BLACK 600 MILES £9995
08 58 FORD FUSION 1-4 STYLE CLIMATE SILVER METALLIC 5000 MILES £9495
08 58 NEW CORSA 1-2 CLUB AUTO PAS AIR/C 5 DR ICE BLUE 4000 MILES £8995
08 58 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO PAS AIR/C ESTATE SILVER 7000 MILES £8995
08 58 NISSAN NOTE ACENTA 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR SILVER 1800 MILES £8995
08 58 NISSAN NOTE ACENTA 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR SILVER 3000 MILES £8995

COUPES & CONVERTIBLES

09 09 FORD FOCUS CC CONVERTIBLE AUTO PAS ALLOYS RED 4000 MILES £14995
08 58 MICRA 1-6 CONVERTIBLE CC SPORT AUTO PAS INFERNO 7000MILES £11995
08 58 PEUGEOT 207 SPORT CC 1-6 AUTO ALL BLACK LEATHER2000MILES £15995
08 08 MEGANE DYNAMIC 1-6 CONVERT AUTO PAS GREY 11000 MILES £11995
08 57 MEGANE PRIVILEGE 1-6 CONVERT AUTO PAS FLAME 6000 MILES £13495
07 57 MICRA 1-6 CONVERTIBLE CC SPORT AUTO PAS BLUE MET 5000MILES £10995
06 56 MICRA 1-6 SPORT CONVERT AUTO PAS ALLOYS BLUE 12000 MILES £9995
06 56 MICRA 1-6 ESSENSA CONVERT AUTO PAS BLUE 18000 MILES £9995
06 56 MEGANE PRIVILEGE 1-6 CONVERT AUTO PAS GREY 16000 MILES £10995
06 56 MEGANE DYNAMIC 1-6 CONVERT AUTO PAS BLUE 19000 MILES £10495
06 56 MEGANE DYNAMIC 1-6 CONVERT AUTO PAS SILVER 23000 MILES £9995
06 56 MEGANE PRIVILEGE 1-6 CONVERT AUTO PAS BLUE 14000 MILES £10995
06 06 MICRA 1-6 ESSENSA CONVERT AUTO PAS SILVER 28000 MILES £9995
06 06 MEGANE DYNAMIC 1-6 CONVERT AUTO PAS BLUE 21000 MILES £9995
06 06 MEGANE DYNAMIC 1-6 CONVERT AUTO PAS BLUE 10000 MILES £10495
05 05 MEGANE DYNAMIC 1-6 CONVERT AUTO PAS BLUE 38000 MILES £8495
05 55 TIGRA 1-4 SPORT CABRIOLET BLACK LEATHER MANUAL 25000 MLS £7995

BMW

05 55 BMW 320 DIESEL ES 6 SPEED MANUAL ESTATE 5000 MILES ONLY £13995

FIAT

06 56 FIAT PANDA ELEGANZA 1242CC 5DR AUTO PAS BLACK 16000MILES £5995

FUSION & FIESTA

09 09 FUSION 1-6 ZETEC PLUS AUTO PAS 5DR STRATOS VISION 3000 MILES £9995
09 09 FUSION 1-6 ZETEC CLIMATE AUTO PAS 5DR DENIM BLUE 1000 MILES £9995
08 08 FUSION 1-6 ZETEC PLUS AUTO PAS 5DR STRATOS SILVER 3000 MILES £8995
07 57 FIESTA STYLE 1-6 CLIMATE AUTO PASAIR/C BLUE 19000 MILES £7995
07 57 FUSION ZETEC 1-6 ZETEC CLIMATE AUTO PAS AIR BLUE 1000 MILES £8995
07 07 FUSION ZETEC 1-6 ZETEC CLIMATE AUTO PAS AIR GREEN 4000 MILES £8495
06 56 FIESTA STYLE 1-6 CLIMATE AUTO PASAIR/C BLUE 13000 MILES £6995
06 56 FIESTA 1-4 ZETEC CLIMATE AUTO PASAIR/C BLUE 1000 MILES £7495

FORD FOCUS HATCHES & 4 DOORS

08 08 FOCUS 1-6 STYLE 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR/C VISION BLUE 6000 MILES £9995
08 08 NEW FOCUS 1-6 ZETEC 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR/C BLACK 4000 MILES £11495
08 08 NEW FOCUS 1-6 ZETEC 3 DR AUTO PAS AIR/C KELP 4000 MILES £9995
08 57 NEW FOCUS 1-6 STYLE AUTO PAS AIR/C BLUE 7000 MILES £9995
07 57 FOCUS 1-6 ZETEC 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR/CALLOYS GREEN 5000 MILES £8995
07 07 FOCUS 1-6 SPORT AUTO PAS AIR/C STRATOS SILVER 6000 MILES £7495
06 56 FOCUS 1-6 GHIA AUTO PAS 4 DR ALLOYS TONIC BLUE 13000 MILES £7995
06 56 FOCUS 1-6 GHIA AUTO PAS 4 DR ALLOYS SILVER 17000 MILES £7995
06 56 FOCUS 1-6 GHIA AUTO PAS 4 DR ALLOYS TANGO 18000 MILES £7995
06 06 FOCUS 1-6 GHIA AUTO PAS 4 DR ALLOYS BLUE 12000 MILES £7495
06 06 FOCUS 1-6 GHIA AUTO PAS 4 DR ALLOYS SILVER 21000 MILES £7495
06 06 FOCUS 1-6 LX HATCH AUTO PAS AIR/C STRATOS SILVER 34000 MILES £5995
05 55 FORD FOCUS GHIA 2-0 AUTO PAS 5 DR AIR/C SEA GREY 27000 MILES £6995
03 03 FOCUS 2-0 GHIA AUTO 4 DOOR PAS AIR/C PEPPER RED 48000 MILES £4995

FORD FOCUS ESTATES

07 57 FOCUS 1-6 STYLE ESTATE AUTO AIR/C MOONDUST SILVER1900MILES £8995
07 07 FOCUS 1-6 ZETEC CLIMATE AUTO PAS AIR ESTATE BLUE 15000 MILES £7995
06 56 FOCUS 2-0 GHIA ESTATE CAR AUTO PAS STAR SILVER 23000 MILES £7995
06 56 FOCUS 2-0 GHIA AUTO ESTATE PAS AIR/C TONIC BLUE 18000 MILES £7995
06 56 FOCUS 1-6 LX ESTATE AUTO PAS AIR/C STEEL GREY 12000 MILES £6995
06 56 FOCUS 1-6 LX ESTATE AUTO PAS AIR/C SILVER 17000 MILES £6995
06 56 FOCUS 1-6 LX ESTATE AUTO PAS AIR/C SILVER 17000 MILES £6995
06 56 FOCUS 1-6 LX ESTATE AUTO PAS AIR/C TANGO 21000 MILES £6995
06 06 FOCUS 1-6 ZETEC CLIMATE ESTATE AUTO PAS AIR ALLOYS 11000MLS £7495
02 52 FOCUS 1-6 LX ESTATE AUTO PAS AIR/C SILVER 40000 MILES £3995

MONDEO

06 56 MONDEO 2-0 GHIA AUTO PAS 5DR SILVER METALLIC 23000 MILES £8995
06 56 MONDEO 2-0 LX AUTO PAS 5DR AIR/C SILVER METALLIC 24000 MILES £7995

SMART

05 05 SMART FORFOUR 1-3 PASSION AUTO PAS BLACK&SILVER 40000MILES £4995
05 54 SMART FORFOUR 1-3 PASSION AUTO PAS BLUE&SILVER 16000MILES £5495

HONDA

07 07 NEW HINDA CR-V 5 DOOR SE VETEC AUTO BLUE 18000 MILES £15995
07 07 HONDA JAZZ 1-4 SE AUTO PAS AIR/C METALLIC BLUE 11000 MILES £8495
06 56 HONDA JAZZ 1-4 SE AUTO PAS AIR/C METALLIC BLUE 18000 MILES £8495

CORSA

08 58 NEW CORSA 1-4 SXi AUTO PAS AIR/C 3 DR BLACK 11000 MILES £8995
08 58 NEW CORSA 1-2 CLUB AUTO PAS AIR/C 3 DR ICE BLUE 300 MILES £8995
08 08 NEW CORSA 1-2 CLUB AUTO PAS AIR/C 5 DR ICE BLUE 1300 MILES £8995
07 57NEW CORSA 1-4 DESIGN 3 DR AUTO PAS BLUE 9000 MILES £9495
07 57 NEW CORSA 1-4 CLUB AUTO PAS AIR/C 3 DR ULTRA BLUE 15000 MILES £7995
07 56 NEW CORSA 1-4 DESIGN 5 DR AUTO PAS SILVER 9000 MILES £7995
07 56 NEW CORSA 1-4 DESIGN 3 DR AUTO PAS BLACK 2000 MILES £7995
07 56 NEW CORSA 1-2 LIFE 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR/C SILVER 5000 MILES £7995
06 56 NEW CORSA 1-4 CLUB 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR/C MAUVE 19000 MILES £7995

DAIHATSU

09 09 DAIHATSU MATERA 1-5 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR/C 1900 MILES £9995
08 08 DAIHATSU SIRION SE 1-3 5 DR AUTO PAS BLUE ICE 8000 MILES £7995
08 08 DAIHATSU SIRION SE 1-3 5 DR AUTO PAS BLUE ICE 13000 MILES £7995
07 07 DAIHATSU SIRION SE 1-3 5 DR AUTO PAS SILVER 9000 MILES £7995

CITROENS

08 08 CITROEN C3 1-6 SX AUTO PAS 5 DR AIR/C BLUE 8000 MILES £9995
06 56 CITROEN PICASSO 2-0 EXCLUSIVE AUTO DIABLO 16000 MILES £8495

MAZDA

07 57 MAZDA 3 TS AUTO PAS ALLOYS AIR/C 5DR SILVER 8000 MILES £10995
07 56 MAZDA 2 1-4S AUTO PAS ALLOYS 5 DR MET BLUE 17000 MILES £5995
06 56 2 1-4 CAPELLA AUTO PAS ALLOYS AIR/C 5 DR MET BLUE 1900 MILES £6995
06 56 2 1-4 CAPELLA AUTO PAS ALLOYS AIR/C 5 DR MET BLUE 20000 MILES £6495
06 56 MAZDA 6 TS AUTO PAS ALLOYS AIR/C 5 DR SEA GREY 16000 MILES £8995
06 56 MAZDA 6 TS AUTO PAS ALLOYS AIR/C 5 DR MET BLUE 9000 MILES £8995
06 56 MAZDA 6 TS AUTO PAS ALLOYS AIR/C 5 DR SEA GREY 21000 MILES £8995

SUZUKI

06 06 SUZUKI IGNIS 1-5 GL 5 DR AUTO PAS CATS EYES BLUE 15000 MILES £5995
06 06 SUZUKI IGNIS 1-5 GL 5 DR AUTO PAS CATS EYES BLUE 16000 MILES £5995
05 55 SUZUKI SWIFT 1-3 GLX 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR GREY 16000 MILES £7495
05 55 SUZUKI LIANNA 1-6 GLX 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR SILVER 51000 MILES £4995
03 53 SUZUKI WAGON R GL AUTO PAS GREY METALLIC 16000 MILES £4995

KIA

08 58 KIA PICANTO 1-1 2 5 DR AUTO PAS LIQUID SILVER 10000 MILES £7495
08 57 KIA PICANTO 1-1 ICE 5 DR AUTO PAS BLUE AIR/C 9000 MILES £7495
07 07 KIA PICANTO 1-1 LX 5 DR AUTO PAS SILVER AIR/C 16000 MILES £5995

HYUNDAI

08 58 HYUNDAI 1-4 GETZ AUTO PAS 5 DR MET BLUE 12000 MILES £7995
08 08 HYUNDAI AMICA 1-1 CDX 5 DR AUTO PAS MET GREY 5000 MILES £6995
08 08 HYUNDAI AMICA 1-1 CDX 5 DR AUTO PAS MET GREY 24000 MILES £5995
08 57 HYUNDAI AMICA 1-1 CDX 5 DR AUTO PAS MET GREY 3000 MILES £6495
07 57 HYUNDAI ACCENT 3 DR ATLANTIC ALLOYS AUTO PAS 6000 MILES £6995
07 57 HYUNDAI AMICA 1-1 CDX 5 DR AUTO PAS MET BLUE 5000 MILES £6495
07 57 HYUNDAI AMICA 1-1 CDX 5 DR AUTO PAS YELLOW 9000 MILES £5995
07 57 HYUNDAI AMICA 1-1 CDX 5 DR AUTO PAS YELLOW 9000 MILES £5995
07 07 HYUNDAI AMICA 1-1 CDX 5 DR AUTO PAS SILVER 9000 MILES £5995
07 07 HYUNDAI MATRIX 1-6 GSi AUTO PAS 5 DR BLACK 5000 MILES £6495
06 56 HYUNDAI 1-4 GETZ CDX AUTO PAS 5 DR SEA GREY 12000 MILES £6495
06 56 HYUNDAI MATRIX 1-6 GSi AUTO PAS 5DR SILVER GREEN 16000 MILES £5995

TOYOTA

08 58 TOYOTA YARIS T3 AUTO PAS AIR/C 5 DR BLUE 6000 MILES £9995
08 08 TOYOTA YARIS T3 AUTO PAS AIR/C 5 DR ALLOYS SILVER 14000 MILES £8995
07 07 AURIS T3 5 DR AUTO PAS SILVER 5 DOOR 17000 MILES £8995
07 07 COROLLA VERSO T3 AUTO PAS AIR 7 SEATER RED 25000 MILES £10495
07 56 COROLLA 1-6 T 3 5 DR AUTO AIR/C IXION BLUE 12000 MILES £9995
07 56 COROLLA 1-6 COLOUR COLLECTION 5 DR AUTO BLACK 7000 MILES £9995
07 56 TOYOTA YARIS T-SPIRIT AUTO PAS AIR/C 5 DR GREY 23000 MILES £7995
04 54 TOYOTA YARIS VERSO 1-3 T3 AUTO PAS SILVER 26000 MILES £6495
04 54 RAV 4 XT4 AUTO PAS 5 DR SAT NAV SILVER LEATHER 31000MILES £10995
04 04 YARIS T-SPIRIT 1-3 3 DR AUTO SILVER ALLOYS AIR/C 24000 MILES £6495
03 53 RAV 4 VX AUTO PAS 5 DR SILVER LEATHER 73000 MILES £7995
02 51 AVENSIS 1-8 GS AUTO PAS SILVER SAT NAV 5 DR 51000 MILES £3995

NISSAN

08 08 NISSAN MICRA ACENTA + 5 DR AUTO PAS CAFFE LATTE 4000 MILES £8995
08 08 NISSAN MICRA ACENTA + 5 DR AUTO PAS BLADE SILVER 6000 MILES £8495
08 08 NISSAN NOTE ACENTA R 5 DR AUTO PAS BLACK MET 2000 MILES £9995
07 57 NISSAN MICRA TEKNA 5 DR AUTO PAS FADED DENIM 14000 MILES £8995
07 57 NISSAN NOTE ACENTA 5 DR AUTO PAS CAFFE LATTE 4000 MILES £7995
07 07 NISSAN MICRA SPIRITA 3 DR AUTO PAS BLADE SILVER 15000 MILES £6995
06 56 NISSAN MICRA SPIRITA 5 DR AUTO PAS PACIFIC BLUE 5000 MILES £7495
06 56 NISSAN MICRA SPIRITA 5 DR AUTO PAS PACIFIC BLUE 11000 MILES £7495
04 04 NISSAN MICRA 1-2 SE 5 DR AUTO PAS GREEN 5000 MILES £5495
04 04 NISSAN MICRA 1-2 S 3 DR AUTO PAS BLUE 9000 MILES £5495
04 04 NISSAN MICRA 1-2 S 3 DR AUTO PAS BLUE 9000 MILES £5495
03 53 NISSAN TINO 1-8 S 5 DR AUTO PAS BLUE AIR/C 32000 MILES £4495

MG ROVER

03 03 ROVER 45 IMPRESSION AUTO PAS AIR/C NIGHTFIRE RED 43000 MILES £2995

CHEVROLET

09 09 CHEVROLET LACETTI 1-6 SX AUTO PAS 5 DR SILVER 900 MILES £7995
09 58 CHEVROLET LACETTI 1-6 SX AUTO PAS ESTATE CAR 9000 MILES £7495
08 58 CHEVROLET AVEO LT AUTO PAS AIR/C TURQUOISE 1000 MILES £7995
08 58 CHEVROLET AVEO LT AUTO PAS AIR/C SILVER 7000 MILES £7995
08 58 CHEVROLET MATIZ SE AUTO PAS 5 DR BLUE 2000 MILES £6495
08 08 CHEVROLET MATIZ SE AUTO PAS 5 DR BLUE 2000 MILES £5995
08 08 CHEVROLET LACETTI 1-6 SX AUTO PAS 5 DR BLUE 5000 MILES £6995
08 08 CHEVROLET LACETTI 1-6 SX AUTO PAS 5 DR BLACK 6000 MILES £6995
08 57 CHEVROLET MATIZ SE AUTO PAS 5 DR BLUE 5000 MILES £5495
07 07 CHEVROLET KALOS SX AUTO PAS 5 DR BLACK 20000 MILES £5495
07 07 CHEVROLET MATIZ SE AUTO PAS 5 DR SILVER 29000 MILES £4995
07 07 CHEVROLET MATIZ SE AUTO PAS 5 DR BLUE 17000 MILES £4995
06 56 CHEVROLET LACETTI 1-6 SX AUTO PAS 5 DR SILVER 17000MILES £5495
06 56 CHEVROLET LACETTI 1-6 SX AUTO PAS 5 DR SILVER 15000MILES £5495

VOLKSWAGEN

07 07 VW POLO 1-4 S 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR/C BLACK 20000 MILES £7995
07 07 VW POLO 1-4 S 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR/C SILVER 18000 MILES £7995
06 56 VW GOLF 1-6 MATCH 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR/C SILVER 11000 MILES £11995
06 06 VW GOLF 1-6 S 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR/C GREY METALLIC 11000 MILES £9995
05 05 VW POLO 1-4 TWIST 5 DR AUTO PAS SILVER 30000 MILES £6495

ASTRA HATCHES

08 58 ASTRA 1-9 ELITE AUTO DIESEL 5 DR SILVER LEATHER 11000 MILES £12995
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08 57 ASTRA 1-8 DESIGN AUTO PAS ALLOYS 5 DOOR SILVER 14000 MILES £8995
08 57 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO PAS AIR/C 5 DOOR SILVER 20000 MILES £8495
07 57 ASTRA 1-8 DESIGN AUTO PAS ALLOYS 5 DOOR SILVER 17000 MILES £7995
07 57 ASTRA 1-8 DESIGN AUTO PAS 5 DOOR METRO BLUE 17000 MILES £7995
07 07 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO PAS AIR/C 5 DOOR TURQUOISE 6000 MILES £7495
07 07 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO PAS AIR/C 5 DOOR SILVER 4000 MILES £7495
06 56 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO PAS 5 DR AIR/C STAR SILVER 17000 MILES £6495
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08 08 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO PAS AIR/C ESTATE SILVER 12000 MILES £8495
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07 57 ASTRA 1-8 DESIGN AUTO PAS ESTATE PANNACOTTA 15000 MILES £8995
07 57 ASTRA 1-8 DESIGN LIFE AUTO PAS ESTATE MET GREY 7000 MILES £8495
07 07 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO PAS AIR/C ESTATE PANACOTTA 6000 MILES £7495
07 07 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO PAS AIR/C ESTATE METRO BLUE 2000 MILES £7495
06 56 ASTRA 18 LIFE AUTO 5 DR ESTATE PAS AIR PANNACOTTA 17000 MILES £6995
06 56 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO 5 DR ESTATE PAS AIR STAR SILVER 8000 MILES £6995
06 56 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO 5 DR ESTATE PAS AIR METRO BLUE 11000 MILES £6995
06 56 ASTRA 1-8 DESIGN AUTO PAS ALLOYS ESTATE SILVER 11000 MILES £7995
06 56 ASTRA 1-8 DESIGN AUTO PAS ALLOYS ESTATE SILVER 13000 MILES £7995
06 56 ASTRA 1-8 DESIGN AUTO AIR 5 DR ESTATE ULTRA BLUE 13000M £7495
06 06 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO 5 DR ESTATE PAS AIR ULTRA BLUE 12000 MILES £6495
06 06 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO 5 DR ESTATE PAS AIR ULTRA BLUE 20000 MILES £6495
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06 56 MERIVA 1-6 LIFE AUTO PAS AIR/C 5 DR SILVER LIGHTNING 5000 MILES £7995
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08 08 GRAND SCENIC 1-6 DYNAMIQUE 5DR AUTO PAS BLACK 2000 MILES £11995
08 08 SCENIC 1-6 DYNAMIQUE 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR BLACK 7000 MILES £9995
08 08 SCENIC 1-6 DYNAMIQUE 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR RED 6000 MILES £9995
08 08 SCENIC 1-6 DYNAMIQUE 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR GREY 10000 MILES £10995
07 57 SCENIC 1-6 DYNAMIQUE 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR GOLD 16000 MILES £8995
07 57 SCENIC 1-6 DYNAMIQUE 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR BLUE 19000 MILES £8495
07 07 SCENIC 1-6 DYNAMIQUE 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR GREY 15000 MILES £7995
07 07 SCENIC PRIVILEDGE 1-6 AUTO PAS AIR/C GOLD 9000 MILES £8995
07 07 SCENIC DYNAMIC 16 AUTO PAS 5 DR AIR/C BLUE 15000 MILES £7995
07 56 SCENIC DYNAMIC 16 AUTO PAS 5 DR AIR/C BLUE 4000 MILES £7995
06 56 SCENIC DYNAMIC 16 AUTO PAS 5 DR AIR/C SILVER 16000 MILES £7995
06 56 GRAND SCENIC DYNAMIC 16 AUTO 5 DR BLUE 7 SEATS 8000 MILES £8995
06 56 SCENIC PRIVILEDGE 1-6 AUTO PAS AIR/C CHAMPAGNE 21000 MILES £8495
06 56 SCENIC PRIVILEDGE 2-0 AUTO PAS AIR/C CHAMPAGNE 28000 MILES £8495
06 56 SCENIC DYNAMIC 16 AUTO PAS 5 DR AIR/C BLUE 22000 MILES £7995
06 56 SCENIC DYNAMIC 16 AUTO PAS 5 DR AIR/C CHAMPAGNE 16000 MILES £7995
06 56 SCENIC DYNAMIC 16 AUTO PAS 5 DR AIR/C CHAMPAGNE 26000 MILES £7995
06 56 SCENIC DYNAMIC 16 AUTO PAS 5 DR AIR/C SILVER 21000 MILES £7495
06 06 SCENIC PRIVILEDGE 1-6 AUTO PAS AIR/C BLUE 17000 MILES £7995
06 06 SCENIC PRIVILEDGE 1-6 AUTO PAS AIR/C BLACK 17000 MILES £7995
06 06 SCENIC DYNAMIC 16 AUTO PAS 5 DR AIR/C RED MET 14000 MILES £7495
06 06 SCENIC DYNAMIC 16 AUTO PAS 5 DR AIR/C BLUE 16000 MILES £7495

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07 07 MEGANE 1-6 DYNAMIQUE 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR SILVER 16000 MILES £7995
07 07 KANGOO EXPRESSION 1-6 AUTO PAS MET SILVER AIR/C 16000 MILES £7995
06 56 LAGUNA EXPRESSION ESTATE 2-0 AUTO PAS MET GREY 8000 MILES £7995
06 56 KANGOO EXPRESSION 1-6 AUTO PAS MET SILVER 13000 MILES £6995
06 06 MEGANE DYNAMIQUE 1-6 AUTO PAS ESTATE GOLD 17000 MILES £6995
05 05 MODUS 1-6 PRIVILEDGE AUTO PAS AIR/C GREY 39000 MILES £5995
05 05 MODUS DYNAMIC 1-6 AUTO PAS SILVER 13000 MILES £5995

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09 58 MECEDES A150 CLASSIC AUTO PAS MET GOLD 5000 MILES £12995
08 57 C180 SPORT COUPE AUTO PAS AIR SILVER ALLOYS 21000 MILES £14995
07 57 MERCEDES C180 KOMP AVANTGARDE SE CUBANITE 21000 MILES £14995
07 07 A CLASS 150 CLASSIC SE AUTO PAS 5 DR AIR/C GREY 14000 MILES £10995
07 56 A CLASS 150 CLASSIC SE AUTO PAS 3 DR AIR/C SILVER 20000 MILES £9495
07 56 A CLASS 150 CLASSIC SE AUTO PAS 3 DR AIR/C BLUE 20000 MILES £9495
06 56 A CLASS 150 CLASSIC SE AUTO PAS 5 DR AIR/C GREY 23000 MILES £9995
06 56 A CLASS 150 CLASSIC SE AUTO PAS 5 DR AIR/C GREY 15000 MILES £9995
06 56 A CLASS 150 CLASSIC SE AUTO PAS 5 DR AIR/C BLACK 25000 MILES £9995
06 56 A CLASS 150 AVANT/GARDE SE AUTO PAS 5 DR AIR 8000 MILES £11995
06 56 A CLASS 150 ELEGANCE SE AUTO PAS 5 DR AIR SILVER 13000 MILES £11495
06 56 A CLASS 150 ELEGANCE SE AUTO PAS 5 DR AIR SILVER 10000 MILES £11495
04 54 C200 SPORT COUPE AUTO PAS leather SILVER ALLOYS 12000 MILES £14995
02 52 A140 CLASSIC SE AUTO PAS SILVER AIR/C 25000 MILES £5995

PEUGEOT

08 08 PEUGEOT 207 SPORT AUTO PAS 3 DR AIR NEYSHA BLUE 11000 MILES £8995
07 57 PEUGEOT 206 LOOK 3 DR AUTO PAS AIR/C STORM GREY 2000 MILES £8495
07 57 PEUGEOT 307 S 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR ALLOYS BLACK 16000 MILES £7995
07 57 PEUGEOT 206 LOOK 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR/C BLUE MET 4000 MILES £7495
07 07 PEUGEOT 307 S 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR ALLOYS DIABLO RED 17000 MILES £7995
06 56 PEUGEOT 307 S 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR ALLOYS MAROON 11000 MILES £7495
06 56 PEUGEOT 307 S 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR ALLOYS SILVER MET 17000 MILES £7495
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07 07 FIAT PANDA DYNAMIC 5 DR 5 SPEED SILVER 8000 MILES £4995
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07 07 FUSION 1-6 ZETEC CLIMATE MANUAL GREY AIR/C 10000 MILES £6995
06 06 CITROEN C1 RYTHM 1-0 5 DR 5 SPD MANUAL SILVER 15000 MILES £4995
06 06 HYUNDAI GETZ 1-1 CDX PAS 5 SPD AIR/C SEASIDE BLUE 45000 MILES £4995
05 55 TIGRA 1-4 SPORT CABRIOLET BLACK LEATHER TRIM 25000 MILES £7995
05 55 KIA PICANTO 1-1 LX 5 DR 5 SPD PAS AIR/CON BLUE 21000 MILES £4495
04 04 PEUGET 206 1-4 SE 5 DR 5 SPEED PAS AIR/C MOONSTONE 36000 MILES £4995
04 04 YARIS T-SPIRIT 1-3 5 DR 5 SPEED SILVER 5 DR 24000 MILES £5995

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VISA Electron

The new Superb Estate.
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With a class leading 1,865 litres of boot space, colour touch screen satellite navigation, bluetooth, and full leather upholstery as standard*, no wonder it was voted Top Gear's Luxury Car of the Year 2009. Starting from £17,720 RRP.

Model shown Superb Estate Elegance 2.0 TDI CR 140bhp 6spd DPF at £24,280 RRP inc optional metallic paint at £410 RRP. Tinted windows not to UK specification. *Specification shown is standard on Elegance and optional on SE models only.

Official fuel consumption for the Superb range in mpg (litres/100km): Urban 19.2 (14.7) - 44.8 (6.3); Extra urban 36.2 (7.8) - 70.6 (4.0); Combined 27.7 (10.2) - 57.6 (4.9). CO_2 emissions for the Superb range 129 - 237 g/km.

Swapsies?

Get at least £2,500* for your old car when you buy a new Octavia. Or at least £2,000* for a new Roomster or Fabia like this one.

* Off RRP. Available for cars registered before March 2003. Further terms and conditions apply. Contact your local retailer for more information or visit skoda.co.uk. **Official fuel consumption in mpg for the Škoda range: Urban 19.2 (14.7) – 55.4 (5.1), Extra Urban 36.2 (7.8) – 78.5 (3.6), Combined 27.7 (10.2) – 67.3 (4.2). CO_2 emissions (g/km) Škoda Range: 109 - 237.**

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Quality used cars

Fabia

MODEL	ENGINE	REG	YEAR	MILES	COLOUR	PRICE
FABIA CLASSIC 5DR HATCH	1.4 MPi 68 BHP (PETROL)	X379NKL	FEBRUARY '01	55668	RALLY RED	£2,490.00
FABIA CLASSIC 5DR HATCH	1.4 TDi (DIESEL)	GN53DVO	NOVEMBER '03	32167	BLACK MAGIC	£4,990.00
FABIA CLASSIC 5DR HATCH	1.4 TDi 70 BHP (DIESEL)	HK56KNR	JANUARY '07	64441	CAPPUCCINO BEIGE	£5,990.00
FABIA CLASSIC 5DR HATCH	1.9 SDi 68 BHP (DIESEL)	AF52LSJ	OCTOBER '02	75464	DARK BLUE	£3,490.00
FABIA COMFORT 5DR HATCH	1.4 16v 100 BHP (PETROL)	W938XKL	MARCH '00	88964	DIAMOND SILVER	£1,990.00
FABIA COMFORT 5DR HATCH	1.4 TDi (DIESEL)	GK04BUJ	AUGUST '04	41607	SAHARA BEIGE	£4,990.00
FABIA AMBIENTE 5DR HATCH	1.2 12v 64 BHP (PETROL)	GK07WRX	MARCH '07	20244	TANGERINE ORANGE	£6,290.00
FABIA SPORT 5DR HATCH	1.2 12v 64 BHP (PETROL)	GK07WRJ	MARCH '07	26251	FLAMENCO RED	£6,390.00
FABIA LEVEL 1 5DR HATCH	1.2 6v 60 BHP (PETROL)	GD07CCO	JULY '07	15244	DYNAMIC BLUE	£6,490.00
FABIA LEVEL 1 5DR HATCH	1.2 6v 60 BHP (PETROL)	GJ57WBZ	SEPTEMBER '07	25735	CORRIDA RED	£5,990.00
FABIA LEVEL 1 5DR HATCH	1.2 6v 60 BHP (PETROL)	GF57HLE	OCTOBER '07	24120	DYNAMIC BLUE	£5,990.00
FABIA LEVEL 2 5DR HATCH	1.2 12v 70 BHP (PETROL)	GK59ZKJ	SEPTEMBER '09	TBA	CORRIDA RED	£7,990.00
FABIA LEVEL 2 5DR HATCH	1.6 16v AUTO (PETROL)	GL09ARZ	JUNE '09	TBA	ARCTIC GREEN	£9,290.00
FABIA LEVEL 2 5DR HATCH	1.4 TDi 80 BHP (DIESEL)	GD07CDX	JULY '07	12469	FLAMENCO RED	£7,490.00
FABIA LEVEL 2 5DR HATCH	1.4 TDi 80 BHP (DIESEL)	GJ58SYE	SEPTEMBER '08	TBA	BLACK MAGIC	£7,990.00
FABIA LEVEL 2 5DR HATCH	1.9 TDi 105 BHP (DIESEL)	GL09APO	JULY '09	TBA	TANGERINE ORANGE	£8,990.00
FABIA LEVEL 3 5DR HATCH	1.6 16v 105 BHP (PETROL)	GL07TVM	JULY '07	26224	BLACK MAGIC	£7,990.00
FABIA AMBIENTE 5DR ESTATE	1.4 16v 100 BHP (PETROL)	GK56VDG	SEPTEMBER '06	22096	CAPPUCCINO BEIGE	£5,490.00
FABIA LEVEL 2 5DR ESTATE	1.2 12v 70 BHP (PETROL)	GK10YJF	MARCH '10	TBA	ROSSO BRUNELLO	£9,490.00
FABIA LEVEL 2 5DR ESTATE	1.4 TDi 80 BHP (DIESEL)	GF08VEA	MAY '08	22105	SATIN GREY	£9,490.00
FABIA LEVEL 3 5DR ESTATE	1.4 TDi 80 BHP (DIESEL)	GL08XRA	JUNE '08	13324	BRILLIANT SILVER	£10,490.00
FABIA BOHEMIA ESTATE	1.4 TDi 80 BHP (DIESEL)	GK56VDO	SEPTEMBER '06	17891	DIAMOND SILVER	£7,790.00
FABIA GREENLINE ESTATE	1.4 TDi 80 BHP (DIESEL)	GJ09NLO	MARCH '09	16799	BRILLIANT SILVER	£10,990.00

Roomster

ROOMSTER LEVEL 2 5DR MPV	1.4 16v 85 BHP (PETROL)	GL56HZR	DECEMBER '06	80713	OCEAN BLUE	£4,290.00
ROOMSTER LEVEL 2 5DR MPV	1.9 TDi 105 BHP (DIESEL)	GL56XJZ	FEBRUARY '07	60187	FLAMENCO RED	£6,990.00
ROOMSTER SE 5DR MPV	1.9 TDi 105 BHP (DIESEL)	GK10YJB	MARCH '10	TBA	STEEL GREY	£11,490.00
ROOMSTER SCOUT 5DR MPV	1.9 TDi 105 BHP (DIESEL)	BK58ZDH	SEPTEMBER '08	16389	POLAR BLUE	£9,990.00
OCTAVIA CLASSIC 5DR HATCH	1.9 TDi 105 BHP (DIESEL)	AE06NJF	APRIL '06	53734	DIAMOND SILVER	£6,990.00

Octavia

MODEL	ENGINE	REG	YEAR	MILES	COLOUR	PRICE
OCTAVIA AMBIENTE 5DR HATCH	1.9 TDi 105 BHP (DIESEL)	GJ56DFV	SEPTEMBER '06	37320	CAPPUCCINO BEIGE	£8,490.00
OCTAVIA AMBIENTE 5DR HATCH	1.9 TDi 105 BHP (DIESEL)	GD07LNP	AUGUST '07	14114	ISLAND GREEN	£9,990.00
OCTAVIA SE 5DR HATCH	1.9 TDi 105 BHP (DIESEL)	GL59UJS	JANUARY '10	TBA	AQUA BLUE	£11,990.00
OCTAVIA SE 5DR HATCH	1.9 TDi DSG (DIESEL)	GK59ZKD	SEPTEMBER '09	TBA	AQUA BLUE	£12,990.00
OCTAVIA ELEGANCE 5DR HATCH	2.0 FSi 150 BHP (PETROL)	GK56VEH	SEPTEMBER '06	41095	CAPPUCCINO BEIGE	£7,490.00
OCTAVIA ELEGANCE 5DR HATCH	1.6 FSi 105 BHP (PETROL)	GK58NNE	SEPTEMBER '08	14458	FLAMENCO RED	£9,990.00
OCTAVIA L&K 5DR HATCH	2.0 TDi DSG (DIESEL)	GF07UAY	MAY '07	71411	SAHARA BEIGE	£9,490.00
OCTAVIA SPORT 5DR HATCH	2.0 TDi DSG (DIESEL)	GK56VDC	SEPTEMBER '06	23499	CORRIDA RED	£10,490.00
OCTAVIA VRS 5DR HATCH	2.0 FSi 200 BHP (PETROL)	GJ56ZZX	OCTOBER '06	34420	BLACK MAGIC	£9,990.00
OCTAVIA VRS 5DR HATCH	2.0 TDi 170 BHP (DIESEL)	GL59YPA	JANUARY '10	TBA	RACE BLUE	£15,990.00
OCTAVIA S 5DR ESTATE	1.9 TDi 105 BHP (DIESEL)	GK10YJW	MARCH '10	TBA	BRILLIANT SILVER	£13,290.00
OCTAVIA SE 5DR ESTATE	1.4 TSi 122 BHP (PETROL)	GK59ZKN	SEPTEMBER '09	TBA	ARCTIC GREEN	£11,990.00
OCTAVIA ELEGANCE 5DR ESTATE	1.6 TDi 105bhp (DIESEL)	GK10YJE	MARCH '10	TBA	CAPPUCCINO BEIGE	£14,490.00
OCTAVIA L&K 5DR ESTATE	1.8 TSi DSG (PETROL)	GK59ZKV	SEPTEMBER '09	TBA	ARCTIC GREEN	£18,990.00
OCTAVIA VRS 5DR ESTATE	2.0 FSi 200 BHP (PETROL)	GF06OJD	MAY '06	15307	BLACK MAGIC	£11,490.00
OCTAVIA VRS 5DR ESTATE	2.0 TDi 170 BHP (DIESEL)	GF08VEB	JUNE '08	41015	RACE BLUE	£12,990.00
OCTAVIA VRS 5DR ESTATE	2.0 TDi 170 BHP (DIESEL)	GK10YJV	MARCH '10	TBA	RACE BLUE	£17,490.00
OCTAVIA SCOUT 5DR ESTATE	2.0 TDi 140 BHP (DIESEL)	GL59YOW	JANUARY '10	TBA	ROSSO BRUNELLO	£18,990.00

Superb

SUPERB SE 5DR HATCH	1.9 TDi 105 BHP (DIESEL)	GF58AYU	DECEMBER '08	50232	BLACK MAGIC	£12,990.00
SUPERB SE 5DR ESTATE	2.0 TDi 170 BHP (DIESEL)	GK10YJS	MARCH '10	TBA	STEEL GREY	£18,490.00

Yeti

YETI ELEGANCE 5DR HATCH	2.0 TDi 110 BHP (DIESEL)	GK10YJY	MARCH '10	TBA	BLACK MAGIC	£16,990.00

Other Makes

TOYOTA PREVIA GLS 5DR ESTATE	2.4 VVTI AUTO (PETROL)	EO03GKG	MARCH '03	58963	SILVER	£7,990.00
VW BEETLE CONVERTABLE	2.0 (PETROL)	GL04HCF	MAY '05	24175	SILVER	£8,690.00

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Motability

FIRST GEAR

Compiled by Steve Loader

The Countryman that can take to the rough

IT WOULD be interesting to hear what Sir Alec Issigonis – designer of the original Mini – thinks of the latest spin-off from the modern-day BMW version.

At least he would be familiar with the chosen name, Countryman, used to adorn estate versions of the 1960s icon.

However, this time around it applies to a crossover available with 4x4 for limited off-roading to add to its appeal as a more family-size Mini – the largest yet of the new generation and the first with four doors and five seats.

The new Countryman – the fourth distinct model in the range – will cost from £16,000 when it arrives in September, and be available with a choice of three petrol and two diesel engines.

It will also be the first of the reborn Minis not to be built at the car's spiritual home – the Cowley plant in Oxford. BMW cites high demand for all Minis as the reason why the Countryman will be made by Magna Steyr in Austria, though this plant's expertise in 4x4s undoubtedly helped.

By way of compensation though, BMW says the forthcoming Mini Coupé and Roadster models will be built in Oxford.

A baby 'Roller stroller' for the kids

VAUXHALL'S second generation Meriva arrives at dealers on June 18, priced from £15,495.

Wider and longer than before it also looks far more stylish with a distinctive stepped rear window line.

But the talking point is something it has in common with the latest Rolls-Royce Phantom and Ghost models; rearward opening back doors for easier access.

Once known as 'suicide doors' this format was banned in the 1960s, but the concept is back now, with modern safety features to prevent kids opening the so-called FlexDoors while the car is moving.

By opening to nearly 90 degrees, entry and exit is improved vastly, but it is parents with small children who will see most benefit as they pilot the kids in and out and strap them into their various seats, boosters and so on.

GreenLine II big savings

HAVING launched facelift Fabia supermini and Roomster MPV ranges, Skoda has unveiled ultra-eco GreenLine II versions.

These further reduce fuel consumption and CO2 emissions, using a new three-cylinder 1.2-litre diesel engine plus stop-start technology, energy recovery and an optiumum gearchange indicator on the dashboard.

This package enables a combined fuel consumption figure of 83.1mpg and road tax exempt CO2 emissions of 89g/km for the Fabia Estate GreenLine II, and 67.3mpg and 109g/km for the Roomster equivalent.

Improved aerodynamics and low-rolling-resistance tyres add to savings on running costs, but we wait to hear on the upfront pricing.

Model shown Superb Estate Elegance 2.0 TDI CR 140bhp 6spd DPF at £24,280 RRP inc optional metallic paint at £410 RRP. Tinted windows not to UK specification. *Specification shown is standard on Elegance and optional on SE models only.
Official fuel consumption for the Superb range in mpg (litres/100km): Urban 19.2 (14.7) – 44.8 (6.3); Extra urban 36.2 (7.8) – 70.6 (4.0); Combined 27.7 (10.2) – 57.6 (4.9). CO_2 emissions for the Superb range 129 – 237 g/km.

DREAM MACHINES: Peugeot's 5008 (left) scooped the 2010 Diesel Car of the Year, while the VW Golf was voted the Best Medium Car

by STEVELOADER

Diesel awards dominated by consistent stars

PEUGEOT and Skoda – brands featured heavily this issue – dominated the 2010 Diesel Car magazine awards.

The top gong, Car of the Year, went to the quite luxurious seven-seat Peugeot 5008 after it had scooped the Best MPV section.

The French marque also landed two of three new categories: Best Crossover for its clever 3008 and Best Sports Car for the striking RCZ (see our First Drive feature).

Skoda's impressive yet affordable Superb also did a double: Best Large Car and Best Estate Car (see this week's road test).

Diesel Car's testers put more than 275 new cars through their paces for the 10 awards.

Editor Ian Robertson said: "We have seen a lot of talented contenders this year, despite the turmoil the motor industry has faced."

Of the 5008's overall win, he added: "It truly is the right car for the right times, with competitive pricing, generous equipment levels, a good all-round driving experience that is all wrapped up in a package that seats seven.

"What more could a family buyer want from a car?"

Some of the winners were familiar after topping their respective classes in last year's awards: the Ford Fiesta was Best Small Car, the VW Golf Best Medium Car, and the Skoda Superb saloon repeated Best Large Car. However, they were outdone by the Jaguar XF, which was Best Executive Car for the third year running.

Other winners were the Land Rover Discovery 4 for Best 4x4 and Toyota's Prius, which came out top in the new category of Best Eco Car.

'A mountain bike could fit in back'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 81

"But who's going to buy a Peugeot?" he sneered, adding that he drove a Range Rover Sport – a car I now loathe even more thanks to him.

I countered by pointing out that even in the cheapest, but still generous Sport trim, the RCZ undercuts the equivalent Audi TT by some margin – £20,450 versus £26,370.

Standard kit includes 18-inch alloys, folding rear seats, rear parking sensors and all the driving and safety aids you would expect.

It is such a bargain, in fact, that Peugeot expects to sell against more conventional coupés such as the VW Scirocco, hot hatches like the Ford Focus ST, coupé cabrios a la VW Eos and the Mini range.

And market watchers at CAP say the car's retained value after three years and 60,000 miles will be 46 per cent – close to the TT's 48.

This is a slap on the back for whoever decided to retain the styling of the RCZ concept car; it can't have been cheap to make the rear screen and roof.

How does it drive? Beautifully. It is front-wheel drive, but with a lovely balance making for fluid driving on a fast and winding road.

I actually preferred the diesel. Though it starts at £22,250 – a premium of £1,800 against the petrol car – it has extra low down response, is wonderfully smooth and feels more settled and poised.

But both versions are that rare beast – a sports car that is pleasurable even over long distances or a daily commute.

The cabin is of the high standard we have come to expect lately from Peugeot and the full leather dash and upholstery versions look like those of a car costing far more.

And it's practical too: the rear seats are no more than a 2+2 exercise and really only suited to kids, but the backs fold down and you could even stow a mountain bike in the boot.

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*Offer on a 6/35 month profile at £99 per month (10000 miles per annum). £594+VAT Deposit and 35 monthly payments of £99. Vehicle shown is Spark 1.2 LT. Vehicle shown features metallic paint available at extra cost of £365. Official Government Environmental Data. Fuel Consumption Figures MPG (Litres/100km). Chevrolet Spark range emissions: Urban 42.8 (6.6), Extra Urban 67.3 (4.2), Combined 55.4 (5.1), CO2 Emissions 119 g/km. Vehicles are shown for illustration purposes only. These offers supersede all previously advertised offers. Prices correct at time of going to press. Offers are subject to availability. Licenced credit brokers, written details available on request, finance is subject to status. E&OE. 42232

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Official Government Environmental Test Data. Saab 9-3 Convertible Linear SE 1.8t Man. Fuel consumption mpg (litres/100km): Urban 25.7 (11), Extra-urban 47.9 (5.9) Combined 36.2 (7.8) CO_2 emissions 186g/km.

On the road prices include number plates, delivery, Vehicle Excise Duty, first registration fee and VAT. Offer valid for registrations and orders between 01.04.10 and 30.06.10. Available on selected dealer stocks only, at participating dealers subject to availability. Available to private individuals and small businesses 1-24 (purchase only). All other sales categories are excluded; cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer or promotion. Offer price and model shown is 9-3 Convertible Linear SE 1.8t Man. Rec. OTR price £26,800.

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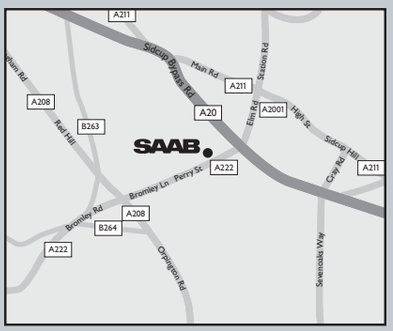
08 08	9-3	Vector Sport 2.0t SportWagon AUTO	Jet Black. 11507 miles.	£14,995.00
07 07	Mini	1.6 Cooper Convertible	Leather, heated seats, heated screen, Xenon headlamps. 10500 miles.	£13,695.00



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A big Czech

DrivingReview

by **STEVE LOADER**

CHIEF DRIVING CORRESPONDENT
steve.loader@kosmedia.co.uk

Skoda Superb Estate

JUST in case you hadn't realised, it's 'get real' time on the motoring front.

The economy's in the mire, fuel prices have gone up 25 per cent in just a few months – though nobody seems clear why – and the banks we now all own won't lend us any money.

It's certainly no time to be a badge snob, but maybe just the right time for a car with snob appeal at the right price – the Skoda Superb Estate.

Okay, the Czech brand had a bit of a laugh last time out with its biggest model (2002-2008) – you didn't have to look hard to see it was a stretched version of an already ageing VW Passat.

But some people saw it for the bargain it was and that gave Skoda the confidence and budget to go for the all-new current car and it is Superb, especially for the money.

The saloon/hatch version came out in 2008, but has now been joined by a classy estate line-up from just £17,720 – that's £10,000 less than an entry model Audi A6 Avant (estate) or you can have our high spec Elegance test car for about the same money as the basic A6. You can even have a 'quattro' version – sorry Audi – from £25,105.

Of course, the badge snobs will have turned over by now so they won't realise that Elegance trim brings smart 18-inch alloys – alloys are standard on the Superb anyway – full and high-quality leather upholstery with electrically adjustable and heated front seats, sat nav, dual-zone climate control, chrome roof rails, rear parking sensors, gold plated bath taps… you get the picture.

The Elegance also comes with a nicely integrated and intuitive sound and navigation interface – why can't French manufacturers come up with something as simple to use as this?

Cabin finish is a little short of 'executive' in places, though everything is robust and the alloy touches are smart. There is plenty of useful stowage and big door pockets, too.

Higher spec versions like ours come with a luggage retaining system for the enormous boot, but this fell short of Skoda's usual standards for this type of thing – it's fiddly.

What really stands out though is the limo-like space for passengers in the back.

This could be an Achilles heel though, because I can see loads of these classy new Skodas ending up on cab ranks; a tribute to the Superb's space and durability, but that's not the upper crust territory that Skoda would like to attack.

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VAUXHALL

Official Government Test Environmental Data – Fuel Consumption Figures mpg (litres/100km): Vauxhall Range: urban 16.6 (17.0) – 61.4 (4.6), extra-urban 32.8 (8.6) – 88.3 (3.2), combined 24.2 (11.7) – 76.3 (3.7), CO_2 Emissions 274 – 98 g/km.

The Vauxhall Swappage Scheme applies to customers trading in a qualifying car or commercial vehicle (up to 3.5 tonnes) against the purchase of selected new Vauxhall models when ordered or registered between 08.04.10 and 06.07.10. At the date of the new vehicle order, the vehicle traded in must be 7 years old or older from date of first registration in the UK. To qualify for the scheme, the owner of the trade vehicle (or their spouse/partner living at the same UK address) must be named as the registered keeper and resident at the UK address shown on the Vehicle Registration Document (V5C) and have owned the vehicle for a minimum of 90 days. The new vehicle must be registered at the same address. The vehicle must have a valid MOT and road tax (or that has expired no earlier than 14 days prior to the new vehicle order date) and be insured at the date of the new vehicle order. The Vauxhall Swappage Scheme cannot be used in conjunction any other offer. All Swappage discounts are inclusive of VAT. Offers available to private customers, Vauxhall Partners and small businesses 1-24 (purchase only), on selected Retailer stocks at participating Retailers only. (Vaux93045)

for small amount

Then again, people are getting more realistic about brands and the Superb is an affordable luxury with a chassis set up to favour a comfortable ride without going wallowy on the bends. I think the blend is about right.

Our car was fitted with a smooth 170bhp turbodiesel and the excellent six-speed DSG twin-clutch automatic transmission option (£1,280) available to VW group brands like Skoda.

This combination delivers good performance (0-62mph in 8.9 seconds) yet sounds refined and should also average around 45mpg.

The DSG works particularly well, underlining how this is probably the way the market will go in future since keen drivers can have their cake and eat it, selecting full auto when in traffic and then making manual selections when there is a need to press on or enjoy a clear road. There is also a 'Sport' selection for extra oomph.

Skoda launched its original Superb in 1934, when the company was as famous as Rolls-Royce for upmarket cars. This new model does not disgrace that heritage.

DrivingPortfolio

SKODA SUPERB ESTATE 2.0TDI AUTO CR ELEGANCE £26,075

Driving appeal	★★★★
Image	★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
How green?	★★★
Road tax	£155/year
Best rival	Ford Mondeo

TheVerdict

DON'T LIKE: the silly boot organiser – great in theory, but poor in execution

NOT SURE: the brand name has yet managed to win over the badge snobs

REALLY LIKE: the fact that the same badge snobs have been given another slap

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The official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km) for the range shown are: Urban 37.2–54.3 (7.6–5.2), Extra Urban 57.6–70.6 (4.9–4.0), Combined 47.9–64.2 (5.9–4.4). The official CO2 emission figures range from 117–139g/km.

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The official fuel consumption in mpg (l/100km) and CO2 emissions (g/km) for the RCZ Range are: Urban 28.5-49.5 (9.9-5.7), extra urban 49.5-76.3 (5.7-3.7), combined 39.2-64.2 (7.2-4.4) and CO2 117-171 (g/km).

ALFA ROMEO

147, 1.9 JTDm 16v DUCATI CORSE Q2, 2008, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player central locking diesel drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering single cd player split folding rear seats tonneau cover trip computer twin airbags remote central locking isofix child seat points remote audio controls, black, 10200 miles, £13000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

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159, JTDM 16v Lusso, 2008, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player central locking climate control cruise control drivers airbag electric windows heated seats immobiliser leather interior multiple airbags power steering, blue, 10000 miles, £15000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

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159, JTDM 16v Lusso, 2008, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player central locking climate control cruise control drivers airbag electric windows heated seats immobiliser leather interior multiple airbags power steering, blue, 10000 miles, £15000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

BRERA, JTDM (210), 2008, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player central locking climate control cruise control drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser leather interior multiple airbags power steering, red, 22250 miles, £15000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

BRERA, JTDM (210), 2008, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player central locking climate control cruise control drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser leather interior multiple airbags power steering, red, 22250 miles, £15000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

GT, JDTm, 2005, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player cruise control diesel electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering traction control trip computer remote central locking isofix child seat points remote audio controls, black metallic, 54000 miles, £8825, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

GT, JDTm, 2005, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player cruise control diesel electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering traction control trip computer remote central locking isofix child seat points remote audio controls, black metallic, 54000 miles, £8825, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

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AUDI

A2, FSI SPORT, 2003, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser leather interior power steering trip computer twin airbags remote central locking, black, 39000 miles, £6500, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

A2, FSI SPORT, 2003, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser leather interior power steering trip computer twin airbags remote central locking, black, 39000 miles, £6500, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

A2, FSI SPORT, 2003, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser leather interior power steering trip computer twin airbags remote central locking, black, 39000 miles, £6500, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

A3, S Tronic, 2008, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player central locking cruise control drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights immobiliser power steering traction control trip computer remote central locking, black, 14000 miles, £13000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

A3, 2.0 T FSi Sport, 2006, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels automatic transmission cd player central locking electric windows immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering single cd player split folding rear seats trip computer twin airbags curtain airbags, blue, 37483 miles, £12000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

A3, T FSI Sport S Tronic, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels automatic transmission cd player central locking climate control cruise control drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser leather interior multiple airbags power steering reverse parking aid, grey, 12313 miles, £16500, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

A3, 2.0 TDi 170 QUATTRO, 2007, abs brakes alloy wheels cd player diesel electric windows front fog lights immobiliser multiple airbags power steering traction control trip computer remote central locking, meteor grey, 23009 miles, £16000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

A3, T FSI Sport S Tronic, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels automatic transmission cd player central locking climate control cruise control drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser leather interior multiple airbags power steering reverse parking aid, grey, 12313 miles, £16500, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

TT, QUATTRO AUTO, 2007, abs brakes alarm fitted alloy wheels bluetooth car kit cd player central locking climate control drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights full service history heated seats immobiliser metallic paint mp3 player multi cd player leather interior multiple airbags power steering sound pack sports seats tinted glass traction control trip computer twin airbags remote central locking remote audio controls, grey, 18490 miles, £21000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

TT, V6 Quattro DSG, 2003, blue, 53900 miles, £12000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

TT, T Quattro (225), 2000, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player central locking drivers airbag, green, 40085 miles, £9500, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

TT, V6 Quattro DSG, 2003, blue, 53900 miles, £12000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

TT, T Quattro (225), 2000, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player central locking drivers airbag, green, 40085 miles, £9500, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

TT, QUATTRO AUTO, 2007, abs brakes alarm fitted alloy wheels bluetooth car kit cd player central locking climate control drivers airbag electric windows mp3 player multi cd player leather interior multiple airbags power steering sound pack sports seats tinted glass traction control trip computer twin airbags remote central locking remote audio controls, grey, 18490 miles, £21000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

TT, V6 COUPE, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels automatic transmission drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights full service history immobiliser metallic paint leather interior power steering reverse parking aid traction control trip computer remote central locking, silver with grey leather, 17000 miles, £19390, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

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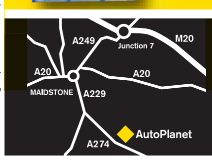

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BMW

3 SERIES, 325 M SPORT, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels bluetooth car kit central locking climate control drivers airbag metallic paint power fold mirrors multiple airbags trip computer twin airbags, blue, 51000 miles, £14650, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

3 SERIES, 320d SE, 2003, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player cruise control electric windows front fog lights full service history immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering reverse parking aid traction control trip computer remote central locking, silver, 76698 miles, £7080, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

CITROEN

C1, 1.4, 2008, cd player central locking electric windows, red, 50 miles, £11000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

C1, Vibe, 2008, abs brakes cd player electric windows immobiliser multiple airbags power steering remote central locking, red metallic, 14500 miles, £5500, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

C1, Rhythm, 2006, abs brakes cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows immob multiple airbags power steering, red, 22059 miles, £6000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

FORD

KA, i, 2006, abs brakes central locking drivers airbag electric windows immob metallic paint multiple airbags power steering, metallic blue, 33600 miles, £4000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

KA, Collection (70), 2004, cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows immob power steering, silver, 52399 miles, £4000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

KA, 1.3, 2008, cd player drivers airbag front fog lights metallic paint, blue, 50 miles, £14550, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

KA, 1.3, 2008, cd player immob, silver, 55 miles, £14550, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

KA, 1.3, 2008, abs brakes air con alarm fitted cd player central locking blue, 15 miles, £9500, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

KA, 1.3, 2008, blue, 12 miles, £9500, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

KA, 1.3, 2008, blue, 13 miles, £9500, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

HONDA

ACCORD, 2.2 i-CTDi EX, 2007, flint grey, 45294 miles, £11000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

ACCORD, 2.2 i-CDTi EX, 2007, bronze, 21051 miles, £14000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

CIVIC, 1.8 EXEC AUTO, 2009, deep sapphire blue met, 7032 miles, £15500, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

CIVIC, 1.6SE AUTO, 2005, silver, 40000 miles, £6795, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

CIVIC, 1.4 TYPE-S, 2009, milano red, 10521 miles, £12000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

CIVIC, 1.8 EX, 2007, black, 15000 miles, £11500, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

CIVIC, 1.8SE, 2008, silver, 14000 miles, £12000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

CIVIC, 1.4 vision, 2002, silver, 52000 miles, £4000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

CIVIC, ES, 2007, black, 28400 miles, £10200, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

CIVIC, 2.2 CTD-i Type S, 2009, polished metal, 7500 miles, £16250, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

JAZZ, SE, 2006, silver, 37000 miles, £7000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

JAZZ, i-DSi SE, 2006, silver, 16647 miles, £6580, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

JAZZ, S, 52, red, 54000 miles, £3495, HERRIDGE, FOLKESTONE, 01303892398 (PRIVATE)

S2000, Roadster, 2006, silverstone silver, 23741 miles, £14495, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

S2000, 2.0GT/HARDTOP, 2002, silver/redleather, 45000 miles, £10000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

S2000, Roadster, 2006, silverstone silver, 23741 miles, £14495, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

S2000, 2.0GT/HARDTOP, 2002, silver/redleather, 45000 miles, £10000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

S2000, 2.0GT/HARDTOP, 2002, silver/redleather, 45000 miles, £10000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

S2000, Roadster, 2006, silverstone silver, 23741 miles, £14495, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

MAZDA

2, TS, 2008, silver, 9500 miles, £7800, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

2, TS, 2010, blue, 3000 miles, £8300, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

2, 1.4, 2008, blue, 55 miles, £12900, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

2, 1.4, 2008, black, 55 miles, £12800, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

2, 1.4, 2008, red, 50 miles, £11800, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

2, 1.4, 2008, black, 55 miles, £13100, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

3, 1.6, 2008, blue, 55 miles, £20800, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

3, 1.6 TS ACTIVEMATIC, 2007, blue, 26500 miles, £7000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

3, TS, 2006, silver, 42221 miles, £6000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

3, TAKARA, 2008, copper red, 23000 miles, £9500, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

5, TS2, 2008, ice, 27292 miles, £10000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

5, TS2, 2007, silver, 22389 miles, £9500, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

5, 2.0, 2008, black, 55 miles, £20900, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

5, 2.0, 2008, red, 55 miles, £20800, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

5, 2.0, 2008, blue, 55 miles, £17900, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

5, 2.0, 2008, black, 55 miles, £17800, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

5, TS2 AUTOMATIC, 2009, silver, 5000 miles, £12700, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

CX-7, 2.3, 2007, red, 15051 miles, £14000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

CX-7, 2.3 T, 2007, aurora blue, 24650 miles, £13500, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

CX-7, 2.3, 2007, red, 15051 miles, £14000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

CX-7, 2.3 T, 2007, aurora blue, 24650 miles, £13500, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

MAZDA2, 2 Capella 5dr, lb56urm, blue, 20000 miles, £6495, Bexleyheath, 01322 524 680 (TRADE)

MAZDA2, 2 S 5dr, lx56hhm, blue, 17000 miles, £5995, Welling, 0208 303 4030 (TRADE)

MAZDA2, 2 Capella 5dr, lx56ofy, blue, 1900 miles, £6995, Welling, 0208 303 4030 (TRADE)

MAZDA2, 1.4D TS2 3DR, gn09uhv, silver, 15000 miles, £9190, Crayford, 01322 621667 (TRADE)

MAZDA3, 3 Takara 5dr, gu09pxj, aluminium silver, 7000 miles, £12495, Welling, 0208 303 4030 (TRADE)

MX-5, Soft Top, 2006, silver, 18840 miles, £11000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

MX-5, 2.0 option pack, 2007, stormy blue, 13740 miles, £10000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

MX-5, 1.8 i, 2008, silver, 14373 miles, £12000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

MX-5, 1.8, 2006, stormy blue, 14529 miles, £9000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

MX-5, NEVADA, 2003, blue, 32000 miles, £6250, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

MX-5, 2.0 OPTION PACK, 2006, classic red, 24200 miles, £10500, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

MX-5, NEVADA 1.8, 2003, silver, 32000 miles, £6500, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

MX-5, SPORT 1.8, 2003, red, 57000 miles, £6000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

MX-5, I, 2003, blue metallic, 58000 miles, £6000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

RX-8, EVOLVE, 2006, copper, 45000 miles, £8500, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

RX-8, KURO, 2007, black, 26135 miles, £10700, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

VAUXHALL

CORSA, 16V Elegance, 2003, abs brakes alarm fitted alloys cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows multiple airbags power steering, silver, 39694 miles, £5200, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

CORSA, SXI, 2003, abs brakes alloys cd player immob power steering sports seats twin airbags remote central locking remote audio controls, blue, 63300 miles, £4000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

CORSA, Club, 2008, abs brakes air con alloys cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows twin airbags remote central locking, ultra blue, 18000 miles, £8000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

TIGRA, 16v Twinport, 7754079, power steering, electric front windows, abs, cd, radio, height adjustable seat, cloth upholstery, twin air bags, remote central locking, alloys, red, 37400 miles, £6995, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

VECTRA, Exclusiv 1910cc 5 door, 2009, cd player central locking approved driver's airbag multiple airbags power steering title check electric windows, silver, 18325 miles, £9995, Sittingbourne, 01795 476222 (TRADE)

VECTRA, Life 1910cc 5 door, 2006, approved title check, black sapphire, 27800 miles, £6995, Sittingbourne, 01795 476222 (TRADE)

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Hyundai i10 1.2 £6,794
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INSIDE THIS WEEK

MEMORIES of the Herald of Free Enterprise disaster will never be far from the mind of experienced ferry PR spokesman Chris Laming.

He tells us in the Big Interview how it changed his industry for ever. Can't help much on the issue of absenteeism during the World Cup footie though; read some of the silly excuses people will offer to watch matches on telly.

On a lighter note, I've also suggested Kent car dealers might fancy taking on the Russian Lada brand.

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Disturbing glimpse at life in the 'real' world

NEW research paints a disturbing picture of smaller Kent firms disillusioned by unsupportive banks and the failings of the recently ousted government, ***writes Steve Loader***.

Key findings from the survey by Maidstone-based accountancy firm Haines Watts shows show previous government initiatives provided little or no support during the recession and have largely been a waste of time.

Banks have exacerbated problems faced by struggling small businesses by restricting access to credit and forcing business owners to provide personal guarantees.

Haines Watts partner Tony Brand said: "The results reveal a disturbing picture of life in the real business world, where small-business owners don't have the faintest idea where to go for government help and where the measures already implemented have been a total failure.

"There needs to be far more emphasis on practical measures that help businesses with cash-flow, such as staggering the PAYE contributions.

"The much-lauded VAT reduction was actually of little help to most business owners, yet was the main tool deployed by the Treasury in an attempt to stimulate the economy.

"Most business people will have breathed a sigh of relief that the new government is blue and yellow rather than red and yellow.

"However, there is still trepidation that tax rises such as employee NI and VAT will stifle fragile growth in demand and at the same time lead to wage demands which could in turn stoke up inflation, putting pressure on interest rates.

SURVEY: Tony Brand of Haines Watts

"The Government has to learn that the only way to recovery is by a growing private sector – one that doesn't want the fire in its belly put out by a lethal combination of excessive taxation and red tape."

Key survey findings were:

- Only 14 per cent of businesses surveyed felt the VAT reduction had helped.
- 25 per cent of SME (small to medium-size enterprise) owners said they were being asked to provide personal guarantees by their banks.
- 20 per cent said their banks had sought to restrict access to credit during the recession.
- Only 11 per cent said information from the Department for Business Innovation and Skills had been useful – adding that government grants were impossible to access and information about them was hard to find
- Only 10 per cent would trust their bank to check business decisions, preferring to turn to other business owners (53 per cent) or their accountants (48).
- Tight bank control of credit could not have come at a worse time for owner-managed businesses, with 42 per cent of those surveyed confirming they had suffered cashflow problems as a result of the recession and 51.5 per cent were forced to make claims through the courts for unpaid bills.
- The competitive environment still remains fierce, with half of respondents bidding for work at below cost and 22 per cent pitching for work on a zero profit basis.

Mr Brand said: "When you combine the picture of destructive cost-cutting with rising import costs due to the weak pound, it appears we are entering a discount economy at a time that couldn't be worse."

Surprisingly though, while a third of business owners admitted the stress had adversely affected their relationship with family or a partner, and 27.3 per cent said stress had contributed to health problems, 84 per cent would still recommend running your own business and 68 per cent having a work/life balance with which they are happy.

Job numbers take off at Manston

FLYBE'S daily scheduled passenger flights between Kent's International Airport at Manston and Edinburgh, starting next Thursday, have boosted the local jobs market.

Infratil, Manston's owners, has recruited 20 new staff, all of whom live locally, to ensure the passengers of Flybe, Newmarket Holidays and CI Travel which operates charter flights and holidays to Jersey, have the best possible experience when passing through the airport.

The new staff will be responsible for check-in and customer service, as well as sales and marketing, operating the shop and airport security.

Manston now employs 112 people to manage the passenger and freight operations, including the recruits, who have just completed their training.

Tom Wilson, chief executive of Infratil Airports Europe, said: "With the new passenger services we are now able to deliver on our promise to increase the number of people employed at the airport and play an even bigger role in supporting the local economy.

"As well as the 112 employees, the airport also does business with more than 100 companies across Kent."

Marta Easton, Manston's senior customer services supervisor, said: "The team is very excited about the return of daily flights to the airport.

"By working closely with Flybe and charter airlines we are confident that our passengers will receive great customer service on a par, if not better than, any other regional airport."

The service will be operated by a 78-seat Bombardier Q-400 turboprop aircraft, claimed to be one of the quietest in of its type. Flights take 80 minutes and are priced £24.99 each way.

Comment

HERE'S a question for anyone in Kent's motor business: how do you fancy a Lada franchise? Yes, we may be about to see a return of the Russian car killed off by the good times before the UK's big crash – the car we now deserve, perhaps.

The laugh of it is that the Lada – the original design was taken from the 1960s-vintage Fiat 124 saloon – isn't even popular with increasingly westernised Russian consumers.

Like us, they've developed a taste for the better technologies of Japanese models and the snob value of a German badge on the bonnet.

But though the Russian economy is misfiring too, at least the country is still rich in natural resources – enough to see yet more Russian oligarchs buy property in London and pick up a football club for something to watch on a weekend.

Meanwhile, we are tightening our motoring belts in line with the faltering economy and it has not been helped by soaring petrol prices – a sharp contrast with the situation on the Continent and fuelling (sorry) inflation here.

Petrol retailers say they are not profiteering, but seem unable to come up with a convincing argument to back that support.

So, will talks between Renault and the Russian maker of the decrepit Lada succeed in restoring the famous austerity brand to Britain's affections?

I hope not. Despite being built to cope with old-style Soviet Russia's appalling weather, roads and occasionally dodgy fuel supplies, it didn't cope that well with the better conditions encountered here, prompting online motoring guru Honest John to highlight one of the car's good points – the toolkit.

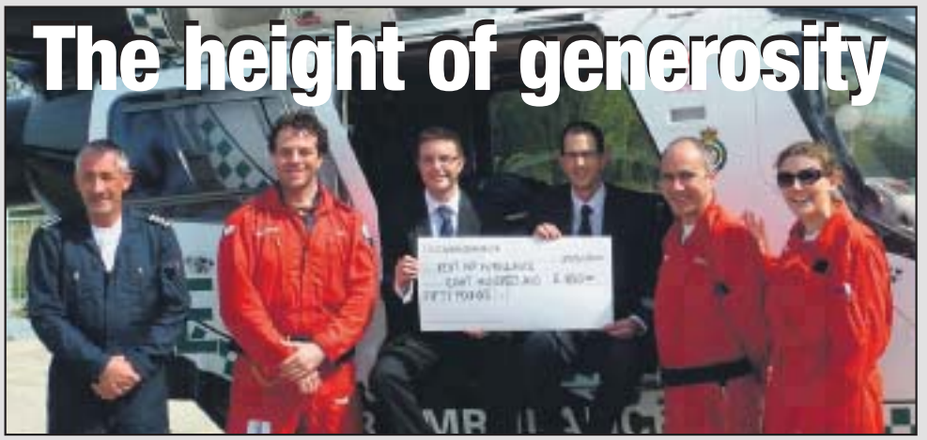
But the lure of what has been dubbed a 'credit crunch cruiser', which could be on sale for as little as five grand, may be impossible to resist for cash-strapped Brits who have had to ditch the brand snobbery fostered by the credit boom.

The revived car might need fresh colours though – most Ladas looked as though they had come off the same production line as the Red Army's tanks.

And if the car's 1977-97 heyday is anything to go by, there will be lots of work for prospective Kent dealers as they 'pretty up' the so-called finished article with necessary extras to satisfy spoilt buyers here.

STEVE LOADER, BUSINESS EDITOR

The height of generosity



FUNDS to keep the Kent Air Ambulance aloft have had a double boost.

Firstly, from a donation of £850 from staff at Clydesdale Bank's Tunbridge Wells Financial Solutions Centre (FSC) and, secondly, from the promise of a charity event being held by Biddenden Vineyards next month.

The bank's cash came from a charity auction of banknotes and Clydesdale business banking partner, Mark Lilliott, and private associate, Ben Jury, delivered the cheque to the Kent Air Ambulance headquarters at Marden, near Maidstone.

Lynn Hyder, county fundraiser for the Air Ambulance, said: "We're really grateful to Clydesdale Bank for this generous donation. It will make a real difference to the life-saving service we provide to the people of Kent."

More money will come from Biddenden Vineyards on Sunday, June 13, with free admission and tastings.

Visitors can sample products ranging from fish to cheese, and be able to meet the producers.

"We are delighted to support the Kent Air Ambulance once again at our fourth annual Taste the Best of Produced in Kent day," said MD Julian Barnes.

"It's a great chance to sample local produce and enjoy a day out among the vines in beautiful countryside."

Kent staff less likely to pull World Cup 'sickie'

By STEVE LOADER
steve.loader@kosmedia.co.uk

ONE in five employees in Kent and the south east will pull a 'sickie' during England's attempt to lift the World Cup in South Africa, starting in a few weeks.

Research showed that employees in Kent and the south east will skive an average of three days during the month-long tournament – making them more conscientious by half a day than the UK national average of 3.5 days.

But it still means an extra 32 million excuses nationally in just four weeks as fans phone or text their boss, faking illness.

Even one in six women will claim they can't make it into work so they can watch Fabio Capello's boys in action.

Some 4,000 people were polled by Continental Tyres and spokesman Tim Bailey said: "The World Cup is a massive event. It's clear fans will try almost anything not to miss a big game.

"As an official FIFA sponsor we understand the appeal of the matches, but maybe people should think ahead and follow the safer line of booking holiday rather risking a collision with their boss."

The survey found seven in 10 aim to watch the World Cup matches, one way or another.

Four in 10 supporters plan on checking scores, latest news and team line-ups at work for at least 22 minutes a day – or 5.5 hours throughout the tournament.

One in five will plan work meetings around football matches and the same number will sneak off early to 'meet a client'.

One in 10 diehard fans would even quit their job if they had a ticket for the World Cup final but were refused time off by their boss.

Favourite excuses quoted in the poll were: a dodgy stomach (28 per cent), feeling sick (23 per cent) and a headache (20 per cent).

And bosses beware: a cheeky one in six workers will lie and say their car won't start, have a sudden bout of food poisoning or simply feel dizzy.

One in 20 will even blame a death in the family for keeping them off work.

Two days off work may also be claimed by one in five workers after heavy nights partying with mates.

Seven in 10 fans reckon Capello is the right man to manage England to the World Cup final and 31 per cent think it is England's best-ever chance to lift the trophy.

But a quarter of women admitted they won't be watching the World Cup – because David Beckham isn't playing.

Roll up for recruitment

SITTINGBOURNE Retail Association is hoping the appetising smell of a bacon roll can help its recruiting drive.

The organisation is hosting a breakfast event from 8am on Tuesday, at AE Barrow and Sons' bakery, 38a High Street, Sittingbourne.

The aim is to show retailers and traders how they can be involved in the future of the town centre, which has been hard hit by the downturn and has many vacant shops.

Swale Borough Council is backing the association's efforts and the authority's regeneration projects officer, Jill Read, said: "Building a strong retailers' association is key to making Sittingbourne the vibrant and attractive place that people want to visit.

"We want as many businesses as possible to come along to find out about the benefits of becoming a member and let local retailers know how they can help guide the future of the town. Simon at Barrow & Sons has offered to host the event and provide those in attendance with a free bacon roll and cup of tea, for which we are very grateful."

To attend or find out more, contact Jill Read 01795 417592 or email at jillread@swale.gov.uk.

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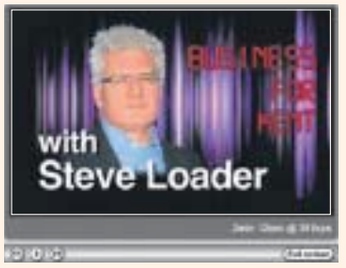

All the news and views from around the county with the Business for Kent team, led by business editor Steve Loader

BUSINESS WEEK

online: www.businessforkent.co.uk

ENGINEERING firm Jee has secured a three-year contract extension with oil and gas exploration giant Perenco.

Tonbridge-based Jee provides consultancy services to the sub-sea and offshore industry, working with companies in the oil, gas and renewable industry.

The Perenco deal involves 1,600km of pipelines and umbilicals in the North Sea. Jee's technical director Mike Hawkins said: "We have built a good relationship over the past six years and have developed not just a good understanding of Perenco's pipelines and systems, but a good understanding and appreciation of the needs and drivers of Perenco as an operator."

HEALTH insurance giant AXA PPP is hoping to make further inroads in the corporate health market with a new product aimed directly at large companies.

Called the Corporate Health Plan Pathways, it is aimed at employers with more than 75 staff and claims to differ from similar products. Rather than scheme members being referred to a named specialist by their GP, they simply obtain an open referral and AXA PPP finds them a suitable healthcare provider. The firm, which has its head office in Crescent Road, Tunbridge Wells, believes this step can save clients up to 15 per cent.

AIM-listed technology company Synchronica has secured a sixth contract in Latin America.

The Tunbridge Wells-based firm, which specialises in mobile email, instant messaging and data synchronisation, has teamed up with a leading mobile operator in Panama with a 1.6 million subscriber base. It is Syncronica's is sixth new deal in Latin America and seventh overall for 2010.

RARE breeds smallholders and enthusiasts in Kent can now call on help from a new field officer for the Rare Breeds Survival Trust.

Richard Broad will be working with the charity's members, breeders of native livestock and breed societies to provide practical help and information on rare and native breeds.

He said: "Within the membership we have many talents which I hope to help bring out to the benefit of the trust and rare breeds. If I can't help, I will try to find someone who can."

Visit www.rbst.org.uk or contact r.broad@rbst.org.uk for more details.

MAXIMUS Employment and Training, one of the UK's leading welfare-to-work providers, has opened new offices in the Argyle Centre, Ramsgate.

It joins other employment and learning-based organisations working within the centre, including SES Tutors-Learn Direct, TNG and Thanet College.

Maximus MD Glenn Zimmer said "We're extremely proud to be operating in this area. Our staff are committed to providing participants with the best possible service, ensuring they gain both rewarding and sustainable employment."

JOYLAND Books – the organisation that started the Save Dreamland campaign – has celebrated 10 years of retailing nostalgic and quirky publications. Joyland claims to be the first online retailer focusing on amusement park and fairground books.

Founder Nick Laister said: "I was writing a book on seaside arcades and decided I needed a website to promote it. As it turned out, the book [Pennies by the Sea] wasn't published until 2006 and sank without trace, by which time Joyland Books had grown into one of the most successful specialist retailers in the world."

High street backlash profits Charity Bank

RECORD growth by the Charity Bank may have been boosted by a backlash against its high street rivals, ***writes Chris Britcher***.

That was the view of the Tonbridge-based bank's chief executive Malcolm Hayday after buoyant 2009 figures were released.

He said: "I am especially pleased that private individuals are expressing their trust and confidence in a more transparent banking model that puts people at its heart.

"Charities, too, are recognising they can make a difference, not only through their day-to-day work but by also deciding where to place their money.

"At a time when commercial banks are under fire for reining back on lending, this enables us to continue to grow our lending portfolio."

The bank's strength of support for the social sector was confirmed by its 2009 figures. Loans to charities, social enterprises and community projects grew by 31 per cent year-on-year to £35.8 million in 2009 – a remarkable seven-fold increase since the bank launched in 2002. Deposits also grew 25 per cent in 2009 to £44m.

Its position in the market was reaffirmed recently when it scooped one of the top prizes at KOS Media's Business Challenge Awards.

That landed it a share of a marketing cash-pot to further raise its profile of providing loan finance and advice to charities, community associations, voluntary organisations, community businesses and social enterprises across the UK.

The bank also makes 100 per cent of its savers' money available for loans and expects the level of drawn loans – currently at £37.9m – to break through £40m in July for the first time ever. The backlash against commercial banks was underlined by more than 500 new deposit accounts opened in 2009 by individuals and other charities who want to support the charity sector.

Mr Hayday said: "Over the past year the stumbling economy has begun to strike charities hard. Income has fallen while demands for their services have increased.

"At this critical time, with the help of our depositors and investors, we have been able to increase our funding to charities and social enterprises. We have ambitious plans to increase our support to charities and other social profit organisations that address society's needs.

"With inevitable public spending cuts to come, we will continue to maximise our support to enterprises that are making a real difference."

The bank has also released details of the first social impact study of its lending activity. Key findings included:

- That 88 per cent of borrowers found a Charity Bank loan had made a major or significant contribution to the achievement of their mission.
- That 69 per cent secured additional sources of funding as a result of the loan.
- That 81.3 per cent of borrowers saw a major or significant improvement in facilities, enhancing their capacity to deliver services.
- And the number of volunteers working with the bank's borrowers rose substantially, by more than 67 per cent.

Sky's the limit, says meringue star

SWEET LIFE: Lynn Boulton of Head in the Clouds

HEAD in the Clouds might be the name of her company, but entrepreneur Lynn Bolton has a grounded view of where she's going.

She wants her Faversham and Whitstable-based luxury meringue brand to go national by 2012 and international by 2015.

It was this drive that made her a runner-up at the recent Kent 2020 showcase, gain coverage on Channel 4 News and Sky Art's Kitchen Secrets, plus an invitation to appear in the next series of TV's Dragons' Den.

She said: "Head in the Clouds has achieved an extraordinary amount and now we are looking for the right investors to take this to the next national and international levels. The sky really is the limit."

The company recently secured a tie-up with fellow Produced in Kent member Taywell, the award-winning ice-cream producer and farm shop operator, to produce a range of Head in the Clouds/Taywell ice-cream with meringue chunks.

"Innovation is at the heart of everything I do," Lynn said.

"It is an important ingredient in our secret recipe and unique soft centred, crumbly exterior meringue in over 40 original flavours.

"Innovation weaves its way through the packaging, the cherub logo and our company story. After extensive research, I knew I'd identified a gap in the market."

Head in the Clouds' production is based in Faversham and it sells online and direct via an outlet at Whitstable harbour, but also through a growing list of private, corporate and retail customers including farmers' markets across Kent and the South East.

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BUSINESS WEEK

online: www.businessforkent.co.uk

'My Business Week …'

James Speck, site director at Kent Science Park

MONDAY – Early into the office and straight down to work. Check emails – is it just me, or is the number of weekend emails growing? Team meeting to agree priorities for the days ahead and confirm who's visiting us.
Afternoon spent with tenants. Most are looking to take more space. Sign-off on a major campaign by marketing director Paul Price, which should hit the mark with prospective new arrivals.

TUESDAY – Meeting in London with the property team and investment surveyors to assess activity. 2010 looking good so far.
Returned for meeting with prospective new science-based tenant. Very exciting product; can't say too much, so will have to wait for them to sign up. Definite increase in inquiries from environmental technology companies, which bodes well for us and Kent.
Before heading home, take walk through common areas of buildings to check cleaning and security standards. Even check the toilets pass muster – my job's so glamorous!

WEDNESDAY – Journey slow this morning. The sooner we can get a new junction on the M2 and road link to the park the better. We're only 400 yards away, so it's a no-brainer from where I'm sitting and more people are starting to agree.
Meetings with tenants, two already working with Richard Wheeler, our business development director, to unlock investment for R&D.
Richard briefs me on positive meeting with University of Greenwich and a green technology collaboration is now tantalisingly close.
Met colleague Babs Knott for update on a raft of inquiries for prospective tenants and a current one, leases, lease renewals and business rates.

THURSDAY – Big day, best suit and tie, with visit of company considering taking more than 40,000 sq ft of laboratory space. That's a lot of space. If we secure this one the park will have helped bring another 100 jobs to Swale.
Afternoon spent discussing our potential investment in a biofuel combined heat and power facility developed with Aquafuel, one of our tenants. Good for the environment and could reduce our £900k annual electricity bill. Photo taken with new tenant – the Kent branch of the Institute of Directors – before heading home.

FRIDAY – Nice email from major prospect thanking us for the visit – fingers and toes crossed. Catch up with our project managers Stace, currently overseeing the construction of a data centre, a £17 million investment and on target for completion by the end of May.
Checked diary for next week and have meetings with Swale Borough Council, KCC, Locate in Kent, the Local Strategic Partnership, Kent Developers' Group, Private Sector Liaison Group, and Seeda's Innovation Growth Team. Makes this week seem like a breeze …

Channel disaster heralded Chris's baptism of fire

One of Kent's best known PR professionals, P&O Ferries' communications director Chris Laming paid his dues as a newspaper reporter, production manager and editor before 'crossing the floor'. He went on to an ever-evolving life in the ferry industry based around the Port of Dover – the busiest passenger port in the world – where the next industrial dispute on the other side of the Channel and the dreaded Operation Stack can even seem like routine. He spoke to Business for Kent editor STEVE LOADER about the challenges of PR

CHRIS LAMING

KOSmedia BUSINESS WEEK THE BIG INTERVIEW

IT HAD been "10 glorious months" for ferry industry public relations new boy Chris Laming. "I was liasing with all my old journalist chums, running press trips to France, and launching events and new products," he recalls.

"All totally different to being a scribe, but then it all changed and so did the ferry business. I had just got home on March 6, 1987, and the phone rang.

"The first reports of the Herald of Free Enterprise disaster at Zeebrugge were coming in and I soon found myself at Kent Police HQ in Maidstone.

"The set-up there was headed by experienced press office boss Dave Hatcher – later of TV's Crimewatch fame – and I was to act as a conduit between them and the company.

"It was a complete departure from what I had known and I'd had no training. I was dealing with top-level media interviews and enquiries and it was also very emotionally upsetting.

"This went on for four days before I had to rush to hospital as my wife, Pauline, gave birth to our first child.

TRAGEDY: Herald of Free Enterprise

"The news of the birth caused great celebration at police HQ – it must have been very uplifting amid all that sorrow and upset."

The ferry disaster killed 193 passengers and crew and was followed by a lengthy inquest and inquiry, and then measures to prevent any repetition.

Importantly for the man who had been through such a baptism of fire, the media's eye has never turned away from his industry since. But he reckons he had a great education to prepare for it. Not a university degree, but an equivalent three years as a trainee reporter.

He left Borden Grammar School in 1974 and joined his local paper, the East Kent Gazette in Sittingbourne, then owned by Parrett and Neves [later AKN].

"I loved writing, had an A grade O-level in English and being a reporter seemed like taking a degree, learning about public administration, the legal system … and there was a social life."

He later moved to the group's busier Chatham office and to the company's production centre at Crown Quay Lane, Sittingbourne. "I already had a dry sense of humour, but it was really fostered there in a sub-editors' room of big personalities, aged from 20 to their late 60s.

"I left after my three years' indentures [apprenticeship] though. Dad was a carpenter and reckoned 'apprentices' should move on after training and set out their stall somewhere else."

A succession of senior Kent posts in journalism followed, including editorship of a forerunner to Kent on Sunday.

Chris recalls: "Good Morning Sunday launched rather ominously on April 1, 1985. The quality was excellent, but it grew too fast, opening new offices and running a fleet of company cars.

"I managed to get a job back at AKN, but I had always fancied PR and saw a job going with the top ferry operator of the day, Townsend Thoresen."

After the Herald disaster and renaming as P&O, Chris chose a step up to PR manager at the rival Sealink, newly privatised and taken over soon after by Stena Line, where he later became a board director. This joint company later merged in turn with P&O to form the modern P&O Ferries, where he is communications director.

Now 53, he is masterminding publicity for the 2011 arrival of the two biggest ever ferries on the Dover-Calais route, the all-new Spirit of Britain and Spirit of France, at a cost of more than £330 million.

He said: "I'm proud that the ferry industry continues to improve and our business has grown year on year and delivers a proper choice to travellers. There's never a dull moment."

He speaks highly of the value of internal PR and liases closely with human resources (HR) colleagues to deliver briefings, monthly newsletters and annual road shows to P&O's other operations on the Irish Sea and at Portsmouth and Hull – staff must hear relevant news from the company first rather than third parties, he says.

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NEW SPIRIT: P&O Ferries is having two new ships built for the Dover-Calais route

He loves the sea and recalls he and brother Nick saving to buy a dilapidated Mirror dinghy for £30, but put his career before the sport for 20 years until son Michael drew the whole family back into it. Michael was in the GB catamaran racing development squad for six years and sister Lizzie also sailed to a high level. Chris currently has a Dart 18 catamaran, but still finds little time for this and his other hobbies, photography and learning classical guitar.

"I now embarrass everyone with the four chords I've learned and have discovered it's also excruciatingly hard and painful."

A long-time interest in skiing is on hold, though. He and his family survived an avalanche disaster in Galtur, Austria in 2001: "There was huge noise as our hotel was hit by the avalanche. Fortunately, the windows didn't break, but 39 people were killed in the village."

AT THE HELM: Chris Laming sails a Dart 18 catamaran

Trapped in the hotel, he became the eyes and ears of the UK press, filing copy and giving live interviews by phone. Eventually, helicopters staged the evacuation of his family and 6,000 other people.

A few seasons later they were again in Austria when four people died in an avalanche at Obergurgl.

Chris says: "We'd had enough of skiing by then. We went to Las Vegas the following year."

Asked about PR's future, he insists the rudiments will never change, despite fast-moving media technology: "Some people can't distinguish between marketing/advertising and PR, but it was once explained simply to me as, Man goes into pub and says, 'I'm the best looking guy in the world'.

"That's advertising. But if he goes in and someone else says, 'I hear you're the best looking guy in the world', then that's PR.

"It's that third party credibility via the media that lends credence to a story and it comes from understanding what journalists want and cultivating good contacts, as you promote and protect the company and brand and aim to prepare for any turn of events.

"But you need a good team like mine. I'm backed by the head of press and PR Brian Rees – a colleague for 20 years – and by Michelle Ulyatt and Natalie Hardy. You also need to be a people person and know the tricks of the trade. The world is full of PR people, but many don't have the right skills. PR is best served by the ex-journalist, who will know what the press and media want. What they want and what the company requires may be diametrically opposite though, and a PR person needs to be able to run a background programme inside the head asking continually: 'Now, is the next thing I say going to get me the sack?' An example of how not to do it would be Gerald Ratner, who had been running the country's most successful High Street jewellers until he announced famously that it was based on selling crap. Bosses beware. Anyone holding high office anywhere needs to understand and train to deal with the media and a media test should be part of any prospective employment of a CEO or MD."

CHRIS'S TOP TIPS

- PR needs a voice at the top: "I became a director of P&O Stena in 2000. I'm proud to be involved at the highest level, but also convinced that, for PR to do its job, it must have a place at the boardroom table. You have to be there to help fellow directors shape the strategy."
- Journalistic training is the best preparation for a job in PR.
- Have a good team in place – you can't do it all yourself.
- Insist that the boss has media training.

CLEAR BLUE WATER: The Spirit of Britain and Spirit of France will arrive in 2011

CHRIS LAMING'S CV

- 1974 – joins the Parrett & Neves (AKN) newspaper group
- 1977 – joins the Kent Messenger as magazine division production editor and later feature writer for the Evening Post
- 1984 – deputy editor Adscene newspapers
- 1985 – launch editor for Good Morning Sunday, later rejoining AKN
- 1986 – enters PR with Townsend Thoresen (later P&O)
- 1988 – PR manager at Sealink, which later merges with Stena Line and becomes PR and board director
- 2000 – Director of communications P&O Stena Line
- 2003 – Communications director of P&O Ferries
- Member of the Chartered Institute of Public Relations

"NatWest have helped my T-shirt printing business go from medium to large"

Andrew Hodgson, Managing Director of Advartex

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Constructive spirit helps apprentices

CONSTRUCTIONSKILLS is calling for Kent's largest building firms to help stimulate a 'spirit of apprenticeships' throughout their sector, ***writes Steve Loader***.

At a time when research shows 22 per cent of companies across the South East have slashed their intake of apprentices due to the recession, the Government-backed Sector Skills Council (SSC) for the construction industry wants bigger operators to influence and encourage their own suppliers to also set up and sponsor apprenticeships.

Many major contractors already want smaller firms in the supply chain to demonstrate an active training culture before awarding work, and ConstructionSkills aims to make this count even more.

Its regional strategy adviser Hilary Davies said: "There is a real need for more employers to take an apprentice on, but many of the smaller companies in the South East don't feel they have the capacity or time to do so. What we need is for smaller companies to understand the process of taking on an apprentice, what the businesses benefits are and how they can access help and support, both from us, and from larger companies."

Carl Heslop, a special works manager and apprentice employer at national construction firm Morgan Ashurst, agreed.

He said: "Morgan Ashurst needs a robust supply chain and we've spent a lot of time developing ours to ensure that a wide range of different skills are covered by the firms we work with in order to produce the output we need.

"Apprentices are key to this and a very important part of our culture, so if companies in the South East want to work with us it is essential for them to demonstrate that they share our values by taking on and developing apprentices."

There are also fears that inaction now will spark a severe skills shortages in the future, which Dax Smith of Chatham-based Dax Brickwork Contractors, highlighted.

"It's so important to bring apprentices into the industry," he said.

"We have had some excellent trainees. Providing employer-led training is not only crucial to their future but to the future of the whole industry."

The discussion on why apprentices are good for business continues on ConstructionSkills' YouTube site – www.youtube.com/user/ConstructionSkills, and there is more information for businesses at www.cskills.org

ConstructionSkills helps fund and train would-be apprentices and support their firm's management of the recruits to an industry that generates eight per cent of the UK's GDP and a turnover of more than £210bn a year.

Dragon Duncan pulls a pink pint

DRAGONS' Den entrepreneur Duncan Bannatyne has backed a Drink Pink cancer charity campaign across a chain of Kent pubs.

And he has inspired a limited edition ale, Thirsty Dragon, which joins a collection of other drinks promoting the pink emblem of Against Breast Cancer.

Guests at seven Ember Inns pubs in Bexleyheath, Bromley, Orpington, Chislehurst, West Wickham and Warlingham are being encouraged during the chain's nationwide campaign (May 24-June 19) to swap their regular drink for a pink tipple including ciders, long drinks and cocktails.

Mr Bannatyne said: "I'm happy that, in its fifth year, the Drink Pink campaign is aiming to top last year's fundraising success of £50,000.

"But I'm going to get some stick from my wife Jo and kids for turning into a Thirsty Dragon during June."

Jane Hennessy, manager at The George in Bromley, said: "We're confident that through the campaign donations and fundraising events we have planned we will definitely hit the target of £60,000 – it's going to be an outstanding year."

Gordon Vallance, director at Against Breast Cancer, said: "Ember guests have helped raise £140,000 so far by drinking pink, the equivalent of enabling us to fund, for a year, three more scientists at University College London and University of Westminster.

DUNCAN BANNATYNE

BEER that kept British troops fighting on the beaches during World War Two will again be drunk in France after a revival by the Westerham Brewery close to wartime leader Sir Winston Churchill's home of Chartwell.

The barrels of British Bulldog bitter will accompany an expeditionary force to commemorate the Dunkirk evacuation of 1940. The reborn beer has been named with Churchill in mind.

Westerham Brewery inherited recipes from the old Black Eagle Brewery, popular for its Westerham Ales from 1723 until its demise in 1965.

The ale once dubbed "the beer that biffed Rommel" during the campaign in North Africa will now fuel the Dunkirk Dynamo commemoration from Thursday.

The project involves a small army of volunteers – plus about 20 historic military vehicles – who will be fed by chefs from the Royal Logistic Corps from an authentic 1940s-style field kitchen.

Over the weekend of May 29-30, the party will host a British evening for their French hosts, at which British Bulldog will be freely available.

Best practice makes perfect

TWO Kent firms won awards at the Best Practice Ceremony organised by the Manufacturing Advisory Service (MAS) for the South East.

Cooper Crouse-Hinds (UK) of Sheerness, which makes bespoke housings of steel, aluminium alloy and stainless steel, was named overall regional Best Practice Winner for its commitment to continuous improvement.

The company's Nigel Brown received the accolade.

Broadstairs-based Silent Gliss, a leading global supplier of luxury motorised and manual curtain and blind systems, won the Kent Best Practice Club category for continued efforts towards operational excellence. MD Simon Waller picked up the award.

More than 100 manufacturers entered the awards, gathered from eight Best Practice Clubs set up by MAS South East.

The clubs' objective is to deliver strong and sustainable growth by encouraging collaboration between manufacturers. Network manager for MAS, Mark Knowlton, said: "The Best Practice Clubs help companies share knowledge, expertise and experience, enabling manufacturers to review progress in areas such as leadership, customer focus, skills development, growth, innovation and operational excellence.

NIGEL BROWN

SIMON WALLER

"Since the Best Practice Network formed four years ago, members have benefited from £23 million of added value."

Programme manager David Caddle said: "Manufacturing is an important sector in the region and it's vital firms demonstrate their successes in order to benefit others.

"By encouraging collaboration, the region will continue achieving strong and sustainable growth and businesses will be ready to take advantage of opportunities as the economy goes from strength to strength." The ceremony was held at the RBS Williams F1 Conference Centre, Oxfordshire.

'Devine' inspiration opens door to new venture for Shaun

By STEVE LOADER
steve.loader@kosmedia.co.uk

REDUNDANCY after the crash of the Threshers group led Shaun Kendrick to fulfil a dream to own and run his own wine merchants.

It was no fleeting vision either, as he tried to buy out the same shop in Headcorn High Street some four years ago when Threshers took over long-standing rival, Unwins.

But he was persuaded to stay on as manager, only to see Threshers fail last year, with competition from the big supermarkets taking much of the blame.

Mr Kendrick, who re-launched his old shop as the cleverly-named Devine Wine Company (Kent) this weekend, after securing a finance package through NatWest, is not so sure about Threshers' demise though.

"I don't think the Threshers management was really listening the people at the coal face and I've felt for some time – I've been in the business 16 years – that there is a call for premium products for educated wine drinkers.

"You simply cannot compete with the supermarkets by selling everyday brands like Fosters, Gallo and Jacob's Creek."

While he will still stock popular brands of beers and wines, he recognised that building a loyal and regular customer base would rely on him selling high-quality wines, identifying affordable 'finds' and spotting the wine regions on the up – he said southern French and premium Italian wines are vastly improved yet underrated.

For now, he is concentrating on retail customers, but also expects to build a wholesale business for local restaurants and corporate businesses keen to find the best and newest wines.

Mr Kendrick spent 14 years in the photographic and exhibitions business, but always had a hankering for retail. "I'm a people person and I'm now in charge of my own operations. I couldn't be happier," he said.

He has also taken on two of his former Threshers staff and re-opened after a facelift of the shop. Caroline Beeson at NatWest worked closely with Mr Kendrick to guide him through starting up his business, including the outlet's refurbishment, purchase of stock and working capital costs for job creation.

She said: "It has been really exciting working with Shaun as he is an enthusiastic and very knowledgeable individual. I am confident with Shaun's experience in the wine industry and the increase in demand for sophisticated wines that he will do well.

"I wish him all the best as he serves the county with his knowledge and wine-tasting evenings that will help bring the community together."

KEY FIGURE: NatWest's Caroline Beeson helped realise Shaun Kendrick's dream of running his own wine merchants

Spain office joins national network

SPAIN Brothers' Sittingbourne office has joined national accountancy group UHY Hacker Young in a move that extends the latter's office network to 19 across the UK.

The change affects 20 staff including four partners: Andrew Cooper, Elizabeth Jordan, Robert Bursey, Allan Hickie. Spain Brothers' other offices in Dover, Folkestone and Canterbury continue as before.

Robert Bursey, managing partner for Sittingbourne, said: "We can trace our roots back over 150 years and this move will enable us to provide more comprehensive coverage for clients.

"We were previously unable to provide high level corporate finance or turnaround and recovery advice in-house. As part of the UHY Hacker Young group we will be able to offer these services to clients in Kent.

"Being part of the UHY Hacker Young group will enable us to pool our knowledge, particularly in complex tax cases where a second and third opinion is often useful. The UHY network of international offices will also be of great benefit to foreign companies operating in Kent and local businesses looking to expand abroad."

UHY Hacker Young chairman Howard Spencer said: "We are pleased to have gained the expertise and skills of our new Sittingbourne team. They will enhance the breadth and depth of knowledge in the group, which will help improve our level of service to clients and expand our reach into Kent."

The Sittingbourne office's clients range across owner-managed businesses, UK subsidiaries of foreign groups, pension schemes, solicitors and charities and the partners have developed expertise in diverse business sectors including construction, healthcare, retailing, manufacturing, engineering and professional practices.

FROM LEFT: Andrew Cooper, Elizabeth Jordan, Robert Bursey and Allan Hickie

WEALTH manager Brooks Macdonald Asset Management has reinforced its Tunbridge Wells team by hiring new fund manager Colin Barrett, formerly of Heartwood Wealth Management.

The firm – which operates from offices in Mount Ephraim Road, as well as branches in London, Manchester, Winchester and Edinburgh – is the specialist investment subsidiary of the AIM-listed Brooks Macdonald Group. It manages in excess of £2 billion on behalf of private, pension and charity clients. Mr Barrett becomes the fourth fund manager at Tunbridge Wells, which now has a staff of nine since it opened last year.

DEMELZA is looking for a chartered accountant with board level experience in the commercial sector to join its trustees.

The post is voluntary and trustees are required to attend board meetings, join a sub-committee, attend events and become involved with the charity. Demelza cares for more than 600 ill children and their families across Kent, East Sussex and south-east London with two hospices and a community nursing team. For more information, contact Gerry Cassell on 01795 416705 or G.Cassell@newappointmentsgroup.co.uk.

NEXT WEEK: Business Week Spotlight will focus on training, I.T. and communications

Timeline

KOS Media sport takes a look at the highlights of all the sporting action from the last 50 years

1960 **50 YEARS AGO:** The MCC announced Colin Cowdrey would captain England for the first three Test matches of the summer, after he successfully stood in for Peter May in the final Test of the tour of the Caribbean.

The Times' correspondent wrote: "In the West Indies Cowdrey proved his ability as a captain. He has wide experience and most important of all, he displays a smiling approach to cricket."

While Cowdrey was playing for an MCC side against the South Africans at Lord's, Kent were being held to a rain-affected draw by Glamorgan in Cardiff.

Kent made 316 in their first innings, but the Welsh side replied with 328 for six declared. Half centuries from Stuart Leary and Peter Jones saw Kent to 242 for six in their second innings before declaring. It set Glamorgan a victory target of 231, but after an hour the home side abandoned the chase, closing on 90 for three.

1985 **25 YEARS AGO:** The end of the ban on England cricketers who had played on the rebel tour to South Africa in 1982 was bad news for a number of Kent hopefuls.

Mark Benson, Richard Ellison and Chris Cowdrey were all ignored for the one-day series with Australia, as the selectors instead recalled Graham Gooch and Peter Willey, both of whom had just completed three-year bans – and Ian Botham, who had spent the winter in hibernation instead of touring India.

If the trio were disappointed they did not let it show at Bristol, where Kent won a 10-wicket thrash against Gloucestershire in a game reduced to 10 overs a side.

Chasing 87 for four Kent reached their target for the loss of three wickets in 9.3 overs, with Cowdrey and Benson at the crease at the close.

2000 **10 YEARS AGO:** Gillingham were preparing to return to Wembley after a dramatic play-off semi-final win against Stoke City.

Trailing 3-2 from the first leg, the Gills were boosted when Stoke had Clive Clarke sent off for a second bookable offence.

Graham Kavanagh was dismissed eight minutes into the second half, again for a second bookable offence, and within a minute Barry Ashby glanced in a Ty Gooden corner to make it 3-3 on aggregate.

Stoke held on for extra time, but Iffy Onuora finally broke their resistance when he headed in a Nicky Southall cross 12 minutes into the first added period. The game was made safe in the 118th-minute, when sub Paul Smith made it 3-0 on the night.

'Come on Kelly! One more girl... It's gold!'

AUGUST 23, 2004: In the latest in our series on Kent's greatest sporting moments, FRED ATKINS looks at the night Kelly Holmes finally struck Olympic gold

GOLDEN MOMENT: Kelly Holmes finally realises her dream of claiming Olympic gold on a heady night in Athens

"YOU won it Kelly, you've won it! Yes you've won!" Steve Cram, who knew a thing or two about winning middle-distance races, had long ago abandoned any pretence of neutrality during the Olympic 800 metres final in Athens.

Cram is just about holding it together as Holmes enters the home straight in fourth place, until it dawns on him that she actually stands a chance of gold.

"Kelly Holmes… bringing it home for Britain, can she get there? Come on Kelly! One more girl, come on Kelly Holmes… It's gold!"

In any list of the UK's greatest sporting moments, most of the choices will provoke a measure of dissent, as asking a Scotsman for his memories of 1966 will testify.

Holmes' Olympic triumph, at the age of 34, was an exceptionally rare case of story that transcends almost everything in uniting a nation in euphoria.

Tension

She might have dominated her events for a generation, but her career was blighted by injuries, which abated to give her a final shot at gold in Athens and she breezed through the heats as the fastest qualifier.

On the day of the final she tried to alleviate some of the tension by watching a DVD of Finding Nemo and she stayed calm both at the start line and during the first lap.

Holmes stayed at the back and refused to panic even when she was jostled at the bell and again on the back straight.

With 100 metres to go she swept past Russia's Tatanya Andrianova but was stuck on the shoulder of her training partner, Maria Mutola, with Hasna Benhassi and Jolanda Ceplak closing in fast.

In her autobiography, Holmes describes the closing seconds: "I didn't think about Maria or the way I was running, as I sometimes had in the past. This time I was going for the line. I told myself, 'Relax'."

What happened next remains imprinted in the memory of everyone watching. Holmes holds off, just, the chasing pack and her face bursts into joy.

Then she stops for a fleeting second, prompting a trackside photographer to echo Cram's words: "Kelly, you've won!" at which point it finally sinks in – she is an Olympic champion.

Daze

"I desperately wanted someone to hug me or pinch me," she later wrote. "I don't imagine I will ever recapture that extraordinary feeling, I was in a complete daze as I completed my lap of honour… at the medal presentation I was shaking like a leaf, but Sebastian Coe – Lord Coe – came over to give me a big hug."

For Holmes the immediate joy was tempered by doping control and the ice bath she needed, knowing she was running a 1500m heat the following day.

Back in Hildenborough her mother, who was unable to travel to Athens because she didn't have a passport, celebrated for her and awoke the next day to find a scrum of reporters outside her house as she went to walk her dogs.

Holmes was later feted in Tonbridge by an open-top bus parade and the kind of crowd a visiting president or pope would struggle to draw, yet without that first gold she might merely have been a retired, top-class athlete wondering what might have been had she avoided injury.

That night in Athens and her subsequent triumph in the 1500m five days later catapulted her to another level: Dame, heroine, role model and unquestionably the biggest sports star Kent has ever had.

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A taste of the Orient for Cray teen

THE meteoric rise of Cray Wanderers striker George Porter has earned the teenager a two-year contract with League 1 club Leyton Orient.

Porter, a product of Cray's Academy, scored 11 goals for the Wands after breaking into their Ryman League South side towards the end of this season.

The 17-year-old had been having trials with Charlton until Orient intervened and took him to Brisbane Road.

Cray boss Ian Jenkins said: "George started playing for our Academy side last season and then forced his way into the first team after training with the senior players.

"He never looked out of place and for a 17-year-old to score 11 goals in the Ryman Premier is no mean feat.

"He's quick, good in the air and can play in midfield or up front. He's been given a marvellous opportunity by Orient and hopefully he will take it."

OPPORTUNITY: George Porter has signed for Leyton Orient

Because Porter was not on contract, no fee was involved but Cray inserted a sell-on clause in the deal and Orient have agreed to play a pre-season friendly at Hayes Lane on Wednesday, July 14.

London's calling

The 2012 Olympics might be more than two years away, but Lisa Dobriskey says this season is crucial to her bid for gold

Picture: ADY KERRY

PREPARATION: Lisa Dobriskey says this season is vital in the build-up towards 2012

By TOM HOWARD

LONDON 2012 may be more than two years away but Lisa Dobriskey's path to gold is already under way, describing this season as "vital" to fulfilling her Olympic dream.

The world 1500 metre silver medalist is one of Great Britain's gold medal hopefuls on home soil.

Although the Games are still almost 800 days away, the 26-year-old is using this season to plan the best way to prepare for the London Olympics.

Injury

After a back injury disrupted her winter training, the Ashford-born athlete is now fully fit and eager to begin her summer, which is dominated by July's European Athletics Championships.

Winning the championships in Barcelona is her main goal, but London 2012 is never far from her mind.

Last month Dobriskey completed an intense altitude training session in the Spanish Pyrenees, instead of her normal preparations, in a bid to see if there any advantages to be gained for the Olympics.

She said: "It's a big year and one which we can experiment and take risks to make sure we get everything 100 per cent perfect for 2012.

"The Games are two years away but the preparations really start now. It will be interesting to see the results and the information will be vital as to whether we will use any new methods in the lead up to 2012.

"It can be very easy to become overwhelmed by the fact the Olympics are going to be in London soon. I have been forcing myself not to think about it and make sure I'm focused and in my own little bubble."

Dobriskey, who begins her season at the Loughborough International meeting on Sunday, remains unsure whether her schedule will allow her to defend her 1500m title at the Commonwealth Games in October.

She will be racing in the rebranded elite Diamond League, which began in Qatar last weekend, and intends to race in the fifth round in New York next month.

Joining Dobriskey in Loughborough this weekend will be five Blackheath & Bromley young athletes selected for the Great Britain Junior team.

Andrew Jordon and Sophie Hitchon will take part in the hammer, while Lorraine Ugen is set to compete in the long jump. Dan Putnam and Frederica Foster will line up in the 4x400m relay.

Dallas demolition job

UNBEATEN Chatham heavyweight Tom Dallas continued his impressive start to his professional career with an explosive first-round knockout of Lincoln's experienced Lee Swaby last Friday, ***writes Mick Watkins.***

Dallas, 25, was boxing on the undercard of the British flyweight title showdown between champion Shinny Bayaar and Ashley Sexton.

From the moment the bell rang Dallas gave Swaby no quarter, bulling him to the ropes and hammering in body shots.

Swaby managed to connect with one left from his southpaw stance but it was his only success of the night and before long Dallas backed Swaby to the ropes and beat him to the punch with a crushing right hand.

Swaby dragged himself to his hands and knees where referee Ken Curtis finished the count at 1:54 of the round.

Dallas (10 wins, 8 KOs) said: "I expected it to go three or four rounds. He's is experienced, but once I hit him he went down and stayed down."

The win further underlined Dallas' status as one of the best heavyweight prospects in Britain and he is ready to up his level of opposition.

Also on the Dagenham bill, Ramsgate welterweight Scott Woolford lost on points over six rounds in his rematch with Derby's Scott Haywood, who he beat on cuts in November.

Woolford, 28, was the aggressor and the rounds were hard to score, with neither man able to land any real telling blows.

Going into the last-round it looked either man's fight but Woolford tired and Haywood's sharper work saw his hand raised at the bell.

Woolford (10 wins, 6 defeats, 3 KOs) said: "It was close and Dan [Downer, trainer] said I needed to win the last round.

"I thought I could have nicked it but I'll get back in the gym and see where we go from here. I said to Haywood we should have another fight, our own little trilogy, but he said he'd rather play me at tiddlywinks."

Referee Ken Curtis scored the fight 59-56.

Picture: STEVE EASTMENT

POWER-HOUSE: Tom Dallas underlined his status as a heavyweight to watch

Picture: IGOR KUPCO

EXIT: Darius Charles rejected Fleet's contract offer to sign for Sevenage

Final budget to decide Fleet's full-time status

THE future of Ebbsfleet United as a full-time club, plus the future of manager Liam Daish, will become clearer next week once the new playing budget is finalised.

Members of website MyFootballClub, who own the club, voted this week to set next season's budget amid speculation the severe downturn in subscription revenue will almost certainly force the Fleet, who were relegated from the Blue Square Premier last month, to revert to part-time status.

Should that be the case Daish, who has a year of his contract remaining, would be placed in a difficult situation as a full-time manager in charge of a part-time club.

Speculating

Fleet chairman Duncan Holt, who was awaiting the result of the ballot as this newspaper went to press, said: "It's pointless speculating on anything until we know what the membership has fixed with regard to the budget. Once that is known then we can sit down with Liam and sort out where we're going."

Defender Darius Charles was the only member of last season's squad to be offered fresh terms, but the 22-year-old instead signed a two-year deal with Football League newcomers Stevenage Borough on Wednesday. His fee will be decided by an independent tribunal if the two clubs agree a valuation.

Daish was left to reflect on what might have been had he been able keep his best players.

He said: "It often crosses my mind that Ebbsfleet would have reached the Football League had I been able to keep my best players. People like John Akinde, Charlie MacDonald and Luke Moore have shown they are good enough to make the step up.

"It's frustrating because you build a squad and then, through no fault of your own, it's dismantled."

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Picture: IGOR KUPCO

IN CHARGE: Barry Bright is FA Council chairman until a replacement is found

Bright steps in after FA chief resigns

BARRY Bright was thrust into the limelight this week as the Kent County Football Association chairman stepped in to help fill the void left by Lord Triesman.

The Football Association chairman tendered his resignation last weekend following comments printed in the Mail on Sunday accusing Spain and Russia of corruption.

The two countries are rivals to England in the contest to host the 2018 World Cup and came days after the bidders submitted their plans to the sport's governing body, FIFA.

Bright, who is vice-chairman at Soho Square, has taken on the role of acting chairman of the FA Council until a permanent replacement can be found. The body, made up of 92 elected representatives, decides the FA's major policies.

Critical time

The Kent chairman's temporary role comes at a critical time for the FA. It is less than three weeks until the World Cup in South Africa begins, where the association will be looking to promote their 2018 bid ahead of the final decision in December.

Bright chaired a meeting of the council on Wednesday, which sought to stabilise the association after a turbulent few days. He will also attend a board meeting next week as the FA begin to the search for Lord Triesman's permanent successor.

New sports minister Hugh Robertson, Conservative MP for Faversham and Mid Kent, felt it was the right decision for Lord Triesman to step down.

He said: "He deserves enormous credit for taking the bid as far as he has, but everyone in public life knows that you have to be careful what you say to people.

"It's an absolutely unbreakable rule that you don't attack opposition bids, and unfortunately he found that out the hard way."

Staff fury over Olympics

Gold medal hero slams governing body's decision to limit nations to one rider per event at London 2012

By TOM HOWARD

JAMIE Staff believes British Cycling could be damaged by the world cycling governing body (UCI)'s decision to limit each nation to one rider per Olympic event.

The UCI announced the change to its rules for Olympic events earlier this month, a move which has been met with disbelief by the 37-year-old Olympic champion.

Staff was part of the Great Britain squad which claimed 12 medals at the Beijing Olympics in 2008, with the Ashford cyclist winning gold in the Team Sprint.

Under the new guidelines Great Britain's tally would have been significantly decreased in China. Four of the five silver and bronze medals gained in China came in events Great Britain won gold.

Staff believes the decision could lead to cyclists turning their back on the sport.

He said: "I don't think it's going to benefit British Cycling, if anything it's going to damage it. It's a silly decision. Riding in the World Championships is up there but competing at the Olympics is the pinnacle of the sport.

"The decision means that there are going to be young riders coming through the ranks fighting for one position. Some may be very good riders but won't get the chance to compete at the Olympics. Are they supposed to wait until 2020? It could turn some potential riders away from the sport."

While only a few weeks into his retirement, he is already working on plans to launch the Jamie Staff Cycling Academy.

The plans were first announced earlier this year and last month he held a one-off teaching session at Smeeth Community Primary School, near Ashford, to begin trialing ideas, including cycling skills and safety initiatives.

Staff said: "We're making progress and I'm talking to a few companies about the idea. It's going to take time because I want to do this properly, so it is looking more likely it will begin next year."

The ultimate plan is to run the academy from the new Cyclopark complex, which is under construction in Gravesend and due to be completed in 2012.

BAFFLED: Jamie Staff says new Olympic qualification rules could damage Great Britain's medal hopes in 2012 Picture: BRITISH CYCLING

Stones' £100,000 debt issue unresolved

MAIDSTONE United chairman Paul Bowden-Brown insisted the outlook for the club was "positive" this week, after a meeting with shareholder Oliver Ash failed to resolve the issue of an outstanding debt of £100,000.

Ash's company, Richmond, are overdue payment of a loan made to the club and can call the debt in at any time, potentially putting the club at risk.

An initial meeting on May 7 aimed at settling the dispute ended in stalemate and after a second meeting this week Bowden-Brown would only say: "Discussions are going on regarding the future of the club and are positive."

Ash, who owns 25 percent of the club, declined to comment for the time being.

Bowden-Brown also defended the club after it was criticised for a statement clarifying events surrounding a failed bid to the Football Foundation in 2008.

DISCUSSION: Paul Bowden-Brown (left) with investor Oliver Ash Picture: STEVE TERRELL

The Stones prepared a bid in August 2008, applying for a grant of £1,150,000 towards their proposed new stadium at James Whatman Way, but three months later it was announced the bid had been rejected.

Confusion arose last week when it emerged the FF had never received a bid, but Bowden Brown said that informal consultations with the FF effectively constituted a rejection.

"We sat down with two very important people at the foundation, who said that although it was one of the best bids they'd ever seen from a presentation point of view, there were two problems," he said.

"One, we were a limited company and not strictly a not-for-profit organisation, and two, there was the 3G [artificial pitch] aspect."

The statement said: "We anticipate positive developments before next season."

Conway in bid for second try at Indy 500

Picture: DREFER REINBOLD RACING

ICONIC RACE: Mike Conway finished 18th in last year's Indy 500

MIKE Conway will find out this weekend if he has done enough to line up on the grid for the world-famous Indy 500.

The 26-year-old racer from Sevenoaks hopes to make his second appearance in the 500-mile race at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway.

After a positive start to his second season in North America, he is aiming to eclipse last year's 18th place finish.

The race is held in high esteem in motor racing circles and has been won by a number of household names, including Graham Hill, Emerson Fittipaldi and Jacques Villenueve.

Conway is one of 37 drivers battling for 33 grid places during the two-day qualifying around the 2.5-mile oval this weekend.

He said: "Qualifying is always tricky at Indy as there are more cars entered for the race, which means it is busier out on the circuit. It's a huge race, there's always a massive crowd and if you do well it is potentially career changing."

Conway saw firsthand how dangerous the place can be after hitting the wall in practice at full speed last year, which saw him rushed to hospital. After making his debut last year and a much more promising start to the Indycar season, he will be targeting a top 10 finish in the race, held next Sunday.

'I was proud to be a part of it'

Kent spinner James Tredwell did not get a chance to play in England's World Twenty20 campaign, but says he played his part in the team's success

TEAM PLAYER: James Tredwell was part of England's Twenty20 World Cup winning squad
Picture: ADY KERRY

THERE are only 15 England cricketers who can say they have been part of winning of a World Cup, and now I'm one of them!

Of course, I was one of three players in England's ICC World Twenty20 squad who did not get to play a game in our successful campaign in the Caribbean – which culminated so memorably last Sunday when we beat Australia by seven wickets in the final in Barbados.

But myself, fast bowler Jimmy Anderson and Yorkshire's Ajmal Shahzad all still feel very much a part of the success. Ravi Bopara, too, only played in one game as a replacement for Kevin Pietersen when KP nipped home for a few days before the semi-final to see his new-born son.

Initially, when the players sprinted to catch Paul Collingwood after he had hit the winning runs, I must admit I hung back a bit because – like the other three guys who didn't play in the final – I felt that it would not be quite right to be seen in the middle of the scrumdown that formed around Colly.

But when it came to the pictures afterwards, and the lap of honour in front of the England fans, all 15 of us were treated as one – and that's exactly how we felt, too.

Every single player in the England Twenty20 squad put in a huge amount of work to get to the point where we were clearly the best all-round team in the competition. We had all helped each other, especially in practice and on match days, and that's why it was so right to celebrate as a group. We all contributed to getting England over the line.

We did celebrate, as well. The final finished quite early in the afternoon so there was a lot of time for us to sip champagne and goodness knows what else in the dressing room and then later with some of the fans. But, because we had been celebrating since mid-afternoon, it did not turn into an especially late night.

To be honest, the real significance of what England did in the World Twenty20 has not really sunk in with us players yet, and possibly not even the English public. But I am sure it will be a victory – the first by an England team in an ICC global one-day tournament – that will be appreciated and celebrated for a while yet.

As for myself, I am just pleased and proud to have been a part of what happened out there. It was another brilliant experience for me, and something which I must now use to kick on from again in my career.

Obviously to have had the chance – following my Test and one-day international debuts in Bangladesh earlier this year – to continue to work within the England environment was another big boost. Just practising with the rest of the England team has done a lot for my game.

It is in areas of your game management, as well as your fitness and your fielding standards, that being part of an England squad really helps you. Although I didn't get to play because the Graeme Swann/Mike Yardy spin partnership went so well, I still enjoyed the trip hugely.

Now back with Kent, I am about to start a crucial phase of my career. Andy Flower, the England team director, has said publicly in recent days that he is planning on giving some of our leading players a rest during this coming international summer – and clearly that could give someone like myself a further opportunity to add to the England caps I won in Bangladesh.

Whether it is in a Test match, a 50-over international, or in Twenty20, it is so important for me now to make sure that I am ready to take those opportunities if they come along. And, more than that, I have to be showing with Kent that I am one of the players on the fringes of the England team who should be given those chances.

In short, I could not be more motivated to getting back and performing well for Kent.

• ***James Tredwell, the Kent and England off-spinning all-rounder, is one of Kent on Sunday's regular sports columnists.***

Key ends poor run with sublime double century

KENT skipper Rob Key put a frustrating start to the season behind him with a magnificent double century against Durham this week which head coach Paul Farbrace described as "phenomenal".

Key scored 261 from just 270 balls on day one of the LV= County Championship match at the St Lawrence Ground, Canterbury, on Monday. It emphatically ended the 31-year-old's struggle for runs in the competition, after accumulating just 129 with the bat in his first 10 championship innings of the summer.

Farbrace felt the only factor the opener was lacking in the early weeks of the season was luck and believed it was just a matter of time before a big score came along.

He said: "Absolutely, I don't think any of us expected it would be 260 but when he gets in he tends to stay in.

"His conversion rate from 50 to 100 is very impressive and probably as good as anyone in county cricket. He had a lot of runs bottled up inside him, he knew he was playing well and he cashed in.

"He really played at a good tempo all day, to score 260 runs in one day is a phenomenal effort really. It was probably as good a county innings as you're likely to see. Now it's a case of making sure he keeps cashing in and scoring runs."

HITTING FORM: Rob Key on his way to 261 against Durham Picture: ADY KERRY

Bandara to acclimatise until June bow for Kent

MALINGA Bandara arrives in the country today as he prepares to take over from Makhaya Ntini as Kent's overseas player for the rest of the season.

The 31-year-old cannot make his debut until the opening Friends Provident t20 game against Essex on June 2, but has arrived early to give him time to adjust to English conditions.

Bandara has been playing provincial cricket in his native Sri Lanka on pitches a world away from what he will be bowling on for Kent next month. Kent head coach Paul Farbrace, who knows the leg-spinner well after his time as Sri Lanka assistant coach, is well aware of the need for acclimatisation.

He said: "He will have come from high 20s or low 30 degrees Celsius – and in Sri Lanka April and May is as humid as it gets – to a chilly May here.

"It will give him a week to adjust, that's why we got him to come early so he'll have a bit of time to get used to English conditions before the first Twenty20. If he had literally flown in and played a Twenty20 the next day that wouldn't have been ideal preparation."

While Kent's first team begin an LV= County Championship match at Durham tomorrow, Bandara is due to practice at Canterbury. It is then hoped he will take part in the 2nd XI fixture with Sussex at The Mote, Maidstone, to give him three days to get up to speed with both ball and bat.

ON THE WAY: Sri Lanka's Malinga Bandara

HESS BACK?

Gills legend set for talks with Scally about return

By **TOM HOWARD** and **DAVID PRITCHARD**

ANDY Hessenthaler is expecting to meet Gillingham chairman Paul Scally next week to discuss returning to Priestfield for a second spell in charge.

The search for a successor to Mark Stimson advanced rapidly this week, culminating in Hessenthaler ending his three-year tenure as manager at Dover Athletic by mutual consent.

It came after the Whites went public on Monday to reveal Scally had requested to speak to Hessenthaler.

A brief stand-off ensued, with Dover chief Jim Parmenter declining permission until a compensation deal could be agreed to cover the final year of Hessenthaler's contract. The 44-year-old's exit on Thursday appeared to pave the way for a return, four years after ending his decade-long association with Gillingham as a player and manager.

Decision

Speaking shortly after making his decision, Hessenthaler revealed he expects talks to take place in the next few days.

He said: "I haven't spoken to Paul Scally because I wasn't officially allowed to by Dover, but I will be talking to him at some stage to find out if they want me at the club and move on and start working for Gills. At the moment nothing has been confirmed but I would think we would hold talks next week."

Hessenthaler admitted the decision to leave Dover had given him sleepless nights. His spell at Crabble had been one of almost perpetual success, with back-to-back league titles before finishing second in the Blue Square South this season.

But the former combative midfielder has always maintained his desire to return to the Football League at some stage. He cut his managerial teeth at Priestfield in what is now the Championship during a four-year spell as player/manager before resigning from the post in 2004.

Hessenthaler, who alongside Stimson has been linked to the vacant job at Barnet, admitted the lure of a full-time job had been gnawing away at him but believes his time at Dover has served him well.

He said: "I've been away for five years and I've really missed the involvement on a day-to-day basis working with players and giving them information so they are ready for a Saturday. I've been hungry for that and it's looking like I've got that opportunity again, but as I say nothing's been sorted yet.

"Dover is a very important part of my managerial career and I've learnt a lot. I was thrown in at the Championship level at the start of my career and it was a real test for me at Gills but I passed it.

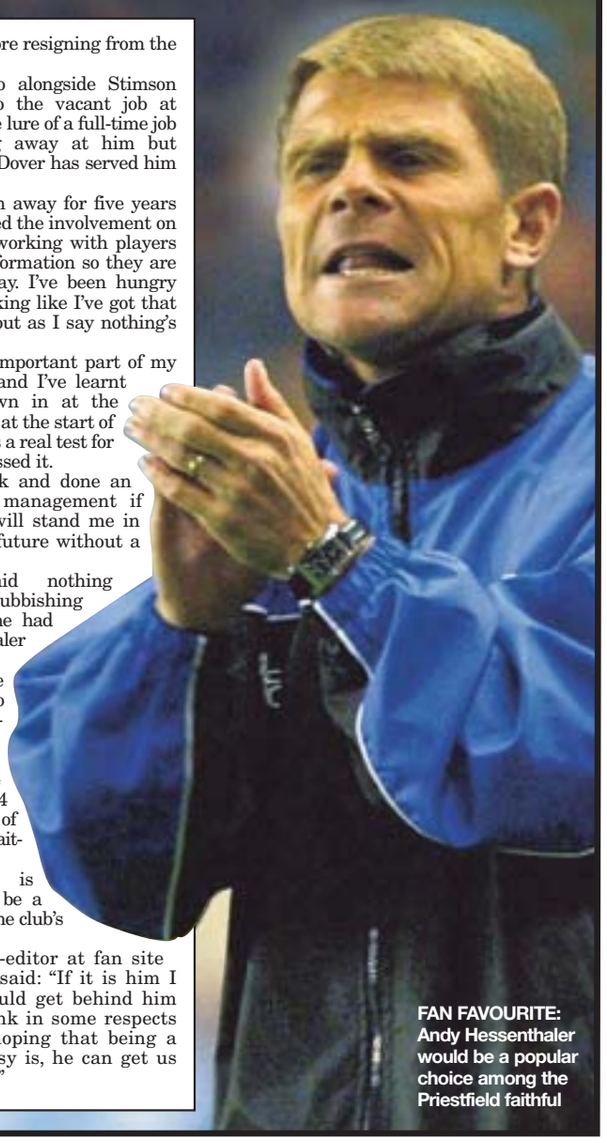
"I have gone back and done an apprenticeship in management if you like, but this will stand me in good stead for the future without a shadow of a doubt."

Scally has said nothing publicly since rubbishing reports this week he had contacted Hessenthaler last weekend.

Despite saying he was not in a rush to make an appointment, a swift move next week would help resolve the futures of the 14 squad players out of contract who are awaiting negotiations.

If Hessenthaler is appointed it would be a popular move with the club's supporters.

Alan Liptrott, co-editor at fan site GillsConnect.com, said: "If it is him I think the fans would get behind him in a big way. I think in some respects the fans will be hoping that being a legend, which Hessy is, he can get us out of the division."



FAN FAVOURITE: Andy Hessenthaler would be a popular choice among the Priestfield faithful

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Kent slump continues at hands of Durham

Picture: ADY KERRY

DEFEAT: Azhar Mahmood has Durham ducking for cover here, but it's not enough to save Kent against Durham

KENT'S disappointing start to the season continued this week as county champions Durham recorded a six-wicket victory at Canterbury to leave the hosts winless in Division One.

The result saw Rob Key's side slip towards the foot of the table after three defeats and three draws from their opening six LV= County Championship games.

It came in spite of a superb first-innings knock by Key, who hit 261 from 270 balls as Kent accumulated 424, with Azhar Mahmood adding 43 at number six.

Durham responded well, with Dale Benkenstein (114) and Ben Stokes (161 not out) both reaching three figures to help the visitors to within six runs of Kent's total. Makhaya Ntini finished with five for 84 – the best figures of his Kent spell to date.

With the game finely balanced, the onus fell once again on Kent's batsmen, but they crumbled against Durham's spin attack. Only Martin van Jaarsveld passed 20 in a score of just 162, setting Durham a victory target of 169 for the win.

Ntini, Mahmood and Amjad Khan took early wickets, but Stokes and Ian Blackwell safely guided Durham home with two sessions to spare.

The defeat left Kent winless from their opening 10 games in all competitions heading into yesterday's Clydesdale Bank 40 clash against Scotland in Edinburgh.

Durham are again the opponents tomorrow as the sides play the reverse LV= County Championship fixture at the Riverside, but Kent will at least be comforted by the return of James Tredwell from England duty.